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On the Cover SF operator armed with a 5.56 x 45mm Mk-12 Mod 1, with Knight's Armament Corp. (KAC) RAS handguard, an OPS, Inc. Mk-12 SOPMOD Suppressor. See story, page 48.

Staff Sgt. (P) Dillard J. Johnson

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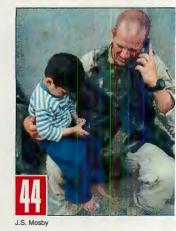
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BULLETIN BOARD Do Some Good In Iraq: Operation Give
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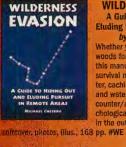
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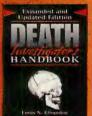
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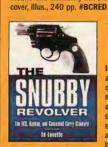
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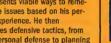
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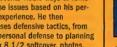
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# BY LARRY PRATT

# Thunder on the Left

ary Aldrich is one of the bestknown FBI agents (now retired) in the country. Aldrich resigned from his post at the White House and blew the whistle in his book, Unlimited Access, on the abuses of power that characterized the Clinton administration.

[But he] has broadened his attack on the socialist drive for total control with his latest book, *Thunder on the Left*. The

book covers a wide range of subjects, but several are of particular interest.

Take the war against SUVs. The socialist mindset of the environmental extremists wants to regulate SUVs out of existence. They think

we should drive around in environmentally sensitive cars — even if they are flimsy little death traps.

As I read this, I could not help but think of the socialist control-freaks' campaign to impose gun locks of one type or another on the American gun owner. Safety, they say, is their chief concern. But as I have pointed out elsewhere, gun locks are dangerous devices which encumber one's self-defense firearm. They could be quite unsafe in an emergency, and are unlikely to be found on an assailant's gun.

In any case, "safety" is something that is only used by the socialists when they think they can con us into going along with one of their zillion regulations. The point is, they will use any argument they think will get them what they want control. Real safety for the average person is not high on their list of priorities. Aldrich deals with one of the social-

Aldrich deals with one of the socialist creeds, that of "no profiling." Aldrich hits former FBI director Louis Freeh for refusing to profile Arabs who happen to be the main group from

which terrorists have been recruited. Yet, the FBI, under the politicization of the Clinton White House, had no problem profiling political enemies of the President, namely the "vast right-wing conspiracy." The FBI actually produced a study, "Operation Megiddo," of suspect

study, "Operation Megiddo," of suspect conservative individuals and groups, particularly pro-lifers and militia organizations. This diversion of resources contributed to the FBI's cluelessness about the 9/11 attacks.

Political correctness was a major contributor to the FBI's failure to benefit from their arrest of terrorist Zecarias Moussaoui prior to 9/11.

Moussaoui had been arrested after he had come to the Minneapolis FBI office's attention for taking flying

Continued on page 81

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# LETTERS TO SOF



# Just Sign Here

Could you inform me if you know about any army where could be in service foreigners? I know only about the foreign legion. Do you know any other army? Is it possible to be in this army without an army training? Thanks for your answer.

David belaskova@wep-print.cz

Many armies will accept foreign nationals, but I know of none that will accept men, even those who may have extensive military training/service, without having them go through their own military training. Your best bet would be to contact individual military attaches at the various embassies in Prague for specific information on citizenship and/or language requirements for enlistees.

# Slow Terrorism

It is interesting that Dr. Martin Brass has never felt the need to report anything happening on our southern or northern borders in his "TERRORISM SITREP". Rusty Childress, of the Protect Arizona Now, wrote (Nov. 2003, FLAK, letter to the editor of SOF) about the massive invasion of illegal immigrants in his state and what the devastating effects this insurrection is having there.

With all the civilian border watch/patrolling elements, border newspapers, national news media, government leaks, and Border Patrol reporting daily insurgencies, arrests, cross border shootings, and threats; I would think that insurgency, insurrection, and the invasion of thousands of unwanted foreign born people illegally trespassing into our country and devastating our social infrastructure would meet the criteria for this situation report.

Cecil Roper Lebanon, Oklahoma

# "Ritalin" Revisited

### Dear SOF

I am reading your magazine here in Denmark and I came across an article written by a 12-year-old Danish boy. Of course, I had to read it, it's not that often you see an article in an American magazine, written by a Dane. First of all, I agree with you when you say that he needs a lesson in diplomacy. Since he's only 12, I can't really get worked up about it.

I'm not going to pass judgment on whether Americans are "a bunch of gun-crazy morons" or not and believe that the diplomatic way is to state the Americans merely have a different point of view, regarding gun policy, than Europeans. [We readily admit to "moron" but take exception to "guncrazy."]

I stumbled across another thing; I don't think a twelve year old Danish boy, you or me for that matter are capable of saying whether Osama Bin Laden is behind 9/11 or not. I think we should leave that up to the CIA or in our case FET (Our military intelligence service). [Oh, I don't know if this point is all that complicated; Bin Laden has released video tapes claiming responsibility and discussing the planning with his colleagues. So in this instance all three of us, the 12-year-old kid, you, and I, are all capable of making that judgment with a few minutes of viewing open-source, available evidence.]

Regarding WWII, you should know that this is a very touchy topic for many Danes and I think you should be careful offending an entire nation (despite all, you are an adult) [in years only]. The reason why Hitler invaded Denmark was primarily because, he in the long run, wanted to take Norway and Denmark was merely a steppingstone on the way. I'm not saying that I agree with the decisions, the government made April 1940, because I don't, but none of us can change that now anyway. [The point we were attempting to make, clumsily it would appear, was certainly not that there was anything lacking in Danish forces, who made a good showing in the brief period before the politicians sold them out — but rather that had the same situation occurred in Switzerland, Hitler would have had to pay a price greater than the benefit, as the Swiss (traditionally, our favorite gun-crazy Europeans) were armed to a man, and trained to shoot, a consideration for Hitler when he was deciding who to bite next.]

You write about the riflemen who liberated Denmark. Well that is true, if it hadn't been for the UK and USA, Denmark would probably be German today but on the other hand, don't think for one minute that the British nor the Americans did out of the goodness of their hearts. There are many reasons why it was a good idea to stop Hitler and thereby liberate DK, France and other countries. [It goes without saying it's better to fight an enemy on somebody else's soil, and of course there are always "good" and "realpolitik" reasons nations get sucked into war: However, sometimes war is waged because it's the right thing to do.]

Politicians don't make decisions out of the goodness of their hearts, they do it for a purpose ... [Have to disagree with that as a blanket statement. Some politicians never make a decision from the goodness of their hearts, some politicians do the "good" thing" when it's to their benefit, and sometimes a people and the politicians who lead them do costly and altruistic things, honest to Gosh, from the "goodness of their hearts." And the really good, and smart, politicians who do the "right" thing often live to see the wisdom of it in the long run.]

The Danish soldiers have a very good reputation around the world. Our army is small (almost non-existent), so of course we couldn't invade a country by our selves, but we do a great job when it comes to participating in PKO and PSO missions around the world. My point is, don't look down on the Danish armed forces and make no mistake, its quality soldiers (just not that many of them) and believe that our nations still have a lot to learn from each other. [I served with Danish soldiers in NATO, and they were then, and are now, first-rate troops. And the PKO and PSO missions they serve on illustrate my above points on "doing the right thing." Sometimes meals-on-wheels is what will do the most good. And sometimes you just have to get your hands dirty and fight to give a people their country back.]

Regarding your magazine: I enjoy reading it, despite the high retail price here in DK, and I encourage you to print more articles about other armies, equipment, vehicles etc. [Very glad you enjoy it, we'll try and make it worth your money].

Regards Sgt. Peter Kamp HQCOY/SHIRBRIG/LG

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Whoever critiqued Larry Washburn's ltr (Flak nov03) owes him an apology. The word Vietnam is a product of the same ignorance that produced "No bic." Viet nam is Viet south; Viet bac is viet north; Viet trung is Viet central. "No bic." is a degeneration of "Toi khong biec." "I do not understand." Washburn's critic needs to familiarize with that phrase.

I would have included the tonal symbols and other doodads of that language but my computer is not capable.

I still would like to thank you for sending me the first

issue of SOF. I have them all except the March 94.

### carusop@cooley.edu

No apology will be forthcoming (although they flow easily here, having had considerable experience) as none is due, unless you want to apologize for being a turd. Without getting into a sophomoric debate over diacritical marks or the difference between a word that makes a geographical distinction as opposed to a word that identifies a political entity, we'd just refer you to any dictionary, atlas or encyclopedia – where you will find the name of the political state(s) written "Vietnam." Or, if you want to let the Vietnamese they don't know how to spell the name of their country, go to: www.vietnamembassyusa.org and explain their "ignorance" [sic] them.

# First Amendment Is Yours, Too

It's a bit lonely here in Seattle. I am the owner of very visible business in a very liberal and affluent part of town where I also live. The problem is that nearly every other person I know happily goes about displaying their opinions on their clothing, car bumpers, signs, store fronts etc. I can't do this or my business and personal life would suffer greatly. Why is that, you might ask, let me give you just a few of the opinions I regularly encounter that are causing my tongue to bleed from biting it so often. "America deserved 9/11" "the worst thing about this war is that there is almost no chance the U.S. will lose" "All war is terrorism" "God is French". I think you get the point. I just wanted to let anyone else out there in this predicament know that you are not alone. Though I am aware



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this is not an advice column, I must ask what the hell to do. Thank You.

Signed: Silent in Seattle.

P.S. Please feel free to print this in your next edition of S.O.F. or an E-mail contact. daniel@adelitastyle.com

Stop biting your tongue and bite some idiots. The editorial offices of Soldier Of Fortune have always been in Boulder, Colorado, as in "People's Republic of Boulder" or "Berkeley East." For nearly 30 years we've quite enjoyed being a burr under their saddle blanket. If you want to mangle a wise saying ("all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing"), try "all that is necessary for ignorance to triumph is for wise men to say nothing." You'll never change somebody's mind if you don't engage them in debate, and be assured there are a lot of "swing votes" out there who have never made up their mind, but have only heard one side of the story. Be polite and reasonable and informed, and you might surprise yourself on how effective you can be.

# Land Rovers Ubiquitous, Too

In "Thunder Road for Kirkuk," pictures of the "ubiquitous Toyotas" actually show a crew-cab Land Rover Defender 130. Door hinges, wheel arch "eyebrows" and cut-out area in dashboard are definite Land Rover characteristics. In that AO, it could also be a license-built vehicle by Otakar of Turkey. (Do not know if they make their own crew-cab version, but they do manufacture other Defender models). It is interesting that this particular vehicle type shows up in such a "hot" area; would be interested to know who supplied it.

Have been a loyal subscriber for 20 years, dating back to my days in VMI. Your magazine has always been an excellent source of vital, no-BS information in military and international affairs, that the "mainstream" media knows nothing about.

Douglas Burch (former USAF Res. Intel. Captain)

# Concrete-DAMS?

I have heard reports of concrete JDAMS being used during the invasion of Iraq. Supposedly they were used against armor parked close to buildings in the city to reduce the effects of collateral damage. Have you guys got anything on this. You have a great mag and I am a long time reader.

Rick Hansen U.S. Border Patrol, San Diego.

We had not heard of this, but if you ever learn of them coming up with a retrofit that would strap on a watermelon or a dead cat, let us know, as we have some targets in mind.  $\Re$ 

### SOF Welcomes Letters To The Editor.

Letters may be edited for space considerations. Please address correspondence to: Editor, SOF Magazine, 5735 Arapahoe, Ste. A5, Boulder, CO 80303 or E-Mail to: editorsof@aol.com.

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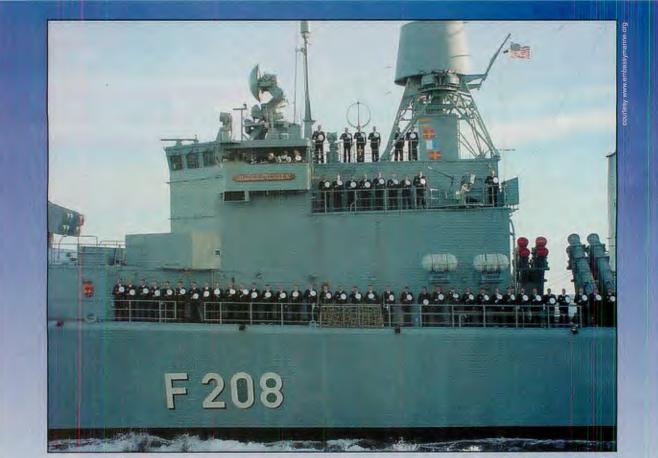
# Do Some Good In Iraq: Operation Give

Hearts and Minds are the ultimate asset, and in preventing the next war, the hearts and minds of little kids are the asset to be won. They are won one smile, one hug, one rag doll, one toy truck, one handful of school supplies, one new pair of flip-flops, one compassionate act at a time.

Chief Wiggles (his nom de guerre for OpSec reasons) is a loveable semi-geezer of a warrant officer who was called up with the Utah National Guard for duty in Iraq, and who has taken a very active – this writer would like to characterize it as a very American — interest in the country, culture, and kids of Iraq. Especially the kids, the ones who ultimately pay the price for every war.

"Taking an interest" in Chief Wiggles' case meant *doing* something to help them, starting with bumming his friends and family back home for the things the kids need, from clothes, to toys, to school supplies. And with the help of his men, setting up a web site with news of what's really going on over there at GI level. He and his co-conspirators established a local distribution network to get the stuff to orphanages and individual kids in his AO. His pan-handling on behalf of the kids? It worked so well, that the incoming donations of some 700 cartons clogged the APO mail system and they had to temporarily rein it in.

But only temporarily: The Chief and his Stateside cohorts quickly established a Stateside collection point, and have made arrangements to ship Conex containers directly to Kuwait, where they will be offloaded and trucked to Iraq to go through his distribution network to the kids who need the stuff. They have even established a dedicated non-profit organization, so contributions are taxdeductible. By the time this edition of *SOF* is out, the details of how to contribute, what to contribute, where to contribute will all be available on the web at: www.operationgive.org. Check it out for the full story, and consider



11 September 2003, at sea: During NATO maritime operations, the German naval warship FGS Niedersachsen (F208) radioed the U.S.S. Doyle for permission to pass close to starboard. And they did so — with the whole crew topside in dress blues, with their covers over their hearts, flying Old Glory from their main mast. For readers not familiar with the naval tradition of dipping one's own colors as they pass a friendly vessel, we assure you that this display was not a salute, it was a big Kriegsmarine bear hug from a true ally. And a class act.

# Home Defense Rule No. 3: Identify Your Target

sing a bright light to identify and momentarily blind things that go bump in the night is always a good idea. Who knows, you might even get a chance to ask Santa about upgrading your present-after all, you need another tie like, well, another tie. But another SureFire highperformance flashlight you could use. Especially one like the E2e Executive Elite, the smallest light SureFire has ever made that qualifies for tactical use (60 lumens or brighter). At just over four inches long and weighing about three ounces, this mighty mite sets a new standard for real power in an ultra concealable package. With a Military Specification Type III hard-anodized finish, the E2e can take some serious abuse. So this Christmas when you hear a bump in the night, go downstairs and tell Santa what you really want, a new SureFire.



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sending some bucks, too. All help is volunteer and any money sent will go for supplies or freight.

# Attaboy, SEARS!

Sears is voluntarily paying the difference in salaries and maintaining all benefits, including medical insurance and bonus programs, for all called-up-reservist employees, for up to two years. Federal law only requires they keep the job open, and most activated reservists end up taking a substantial pay cut and losing all benefits. In response to an inquiry, Sears' representative Bill Thorn noted, "Sears regards service to our country as one of greatest sacrifices our young men and women can make. We are happy to do our part to lessen the burden they bear at this time."

If you want to give Sears some positive reinforcement for their corporate good-citizenship, you can log on to webcenter@sears.com . Or better yet, go to Sears, buy some stuffed animals and toothbrushes, and send them to Chief Wiggles for Iraqi kids (above).

# Fundraising Complete For Vietnam Vets Plaque

Fundraising has been completed for the construction of a plaque to honor Vietnam veterans who died after the war but are ineligible to be on the Vietnam War Memorial. The plaque is expected to be installed near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial by the end of the year.

It was created under legislation introduced by Congressman Elton Gallegly (R-Calif.). Gallegly's bill mandated that the plaque be designed, created and installed with private funds. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund pledged \$50,000 to complete the fundraising, Harley-Davidson committed \$50,000, and \$30,000 was raised through private donations.

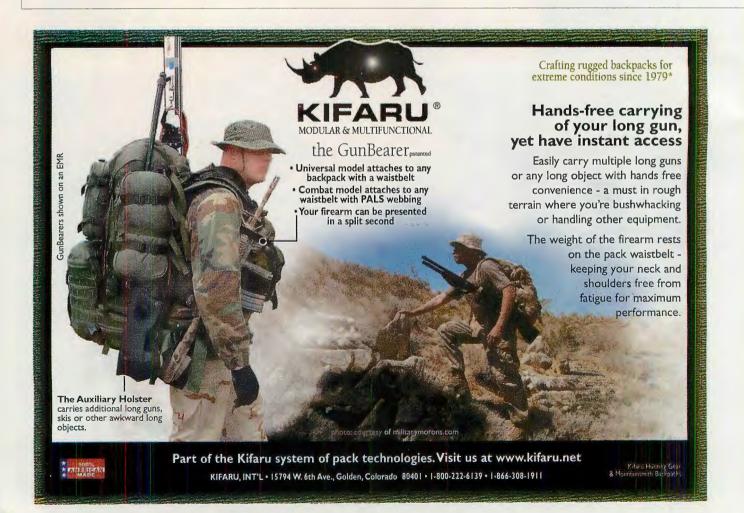
The design, inscription and siting of the plaque were approved by the National Capital Memorial Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission. The memorial plaque will be gray granite, set flush into an extension of the existing plaza where the Three-Servicemen statue stands, with views toward the Wall and the Vietnam Women's Memorial. The inscription will read:

IN MEMORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR AND LATER DIED AS A RESULT OF THEIR SERVICE. WE HONOR AND REMEMBER THEIR SACRIFICE.

# Lethal Libations?

According to *The Scotsman*, the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency has been monitoring a distillery on Islay as a possible chemical weapons plant.

The Bruichladdich distillery on Islay makes Scotch whisky the labor-intensive old-fashioned way. They are proud of their whisky and the traditional methods used to produce it. So proud, in fact, that they installed web cams in the distillery so their customers around the world could tune in on the web and see for themselves that Bruichladdich wasn't cutting any corners, and we assume, stockholders could check up on the help to be sure they were not over-testing the product on the company clock.



But once through the looking glass — or in this case web cam — matters got curiouser and curiouser, as one of those tuning in from time to time was a monitor from the DTRA.

An operative named Ursula noticed one of the web cams was not operating properly, and emailed the distillery to let them know. They emailed back a thank-you and inquired who she was, so she told them: "Our mission [is] to safeguard the U.S. and its allies from weapons of mass destruction," she was quoted. "I work at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Our mission is to safeguard the U.S. and its allies from weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high explosives) ... Our area deals with the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, so we go to sites to verify treaty compliance ... I still find it very funny that their chemical processes look very similar to your distilling process," she e-mailed Mark Reynier, managing director of the Port Charlotte distillery.

Well, look for a turf war: This is BATF territory.

# Poles Find New French Missiles In Iraq

"Polish troops discovered an ammunition depot on 29 September near the region of Hilla and there were four French-made Roland-type missiles," Defense Ministry spokesman Eugeniusz Mleczak said. "It is not the first time Polish troops found ammunition in Iraq but to our surprise these missiles were produced in 2003."

The Roland anti-aircraft system is a short-range air-defense missile in service with at least 10 countries, including France and Germany. It is effective against low-and-mediumaltitude targets.

"Since July 1990, France has not authorized a single shipment of military equipment to Iraq," a French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman told Reuters. The Roland-3 has never been exported to Iraq, she said.

Mleczak said Polish troops were notified about the missiles by a local Iraqi, who received a reward for the information.

# Team Firepower Dominates 3-Gun Match

Muscle Products Corporation's "Team Firepower," took 1st, 2nd and 3rd High Lady Positions in the S.W.A.T. 3-Gun World Championship Match, held at the Mojave Range in Laughlin, Nevada, 23-27 September.

First Place, and overall winner was Tony Holmes, the new World Champion; Second Place, and last years S.W.A.T. 3 Gun World Champ, Bruce Piatt; 3rd High Lady, was Debora Cheek. MPC manufactures Firepower **FP-10** Cleaner, Lubricant, S Preservative, for weapons and weapons systems, and has become a primary contractor for the Department of Defense. MPC can be visited at http://www.fp10.com; and http://www.mpc-home.com .

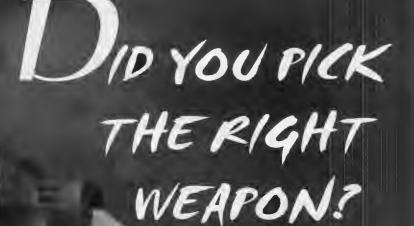
# Shopping For Votes

The following [un-audited] tabulation might suggest that State take lessons from the Johnson/Kennedy/ Daly/Pendergast machines on how to effectively buy votes. The first number after the country is the dollar amount of U.S. aid they get; the second number is the percentage of the time they vote against U.S. interests in the UN.

- Egypt: (\$2 billion annually), 79%
- Jordan: (\$192,814,000 annually), 71%
- India:(\$143,699,000 annually), 81%
  Pakistan: (\$6,721,000 annually), 75%
- Sudan: Sudan (\$1,121,000) 75% (while providing haven for terrorist groups such as bin Laden's Egyptian Jihad, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Hamas. Sudan's Islamic government also has conducted a reign of terror against Christians and Animists in Southern Sudan).
- In the last year the Taliban terrorized the people of Afghanistan and gave safe haven to Osama bin Laden, they received \$143,000,000 in U.S. aid.
- The Palestinian Authority will receive \$500 million dollars in U.S. aid over the next five years, per the Olso "agreement.

Other Muslim states who receive U.S. aid varying from nothing to substantial have typically voted against U.S. interests as follows: Kuwait, 67%; Qatar, 67%; Morocco, 70%; United Arab Emirates, 70%; Tunisia, 71%; Saudi Arabia, 73%; Yemen, 74%; Algeria, 74%; Oman, 74%; Libya, 76%; Lebanon, 80%; India, 81%; Syria, 84%; Mauritania, 87% of the time. You cannot buy friends. You can only buy whores. *¥* 





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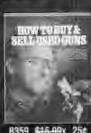


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# CRAZY HORSE ON THE MOVE PART

SU



# TEXT & PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. (P) DILLARD J. JOHNSON

the October issue we published excerpts from nonvetted sources about the striking adventures and dramatic successes of a Bradley commander "Sergeant Johnson" during the drive of his armored cavalry unit from the Kuwait border to Baghdad. We published them with the caveat that they were not vetted, but that they rang true — and asked for our reader's help in establishing a POC with Sgt. Johnson. We received a blizzard of mail taking us to task for printing obvious fiction.

But lucky us: Staff Sergeant Dillard J. Johnson not only contacted us, hoping we could tell the stories of the other men in his unit, but agreed to give SOF his exclusive story in its entirety. Army historians debriefed the officers and men of his unit in-theater, and it was evident at the onset that their exploits would be going not only into the history books, but the record books as well, for such things as: the longest cavalry charge in history, the largest ground movement of personnel and equipment in the shortest time, the largest overwhelming defeat of any such disproportional force in history, and so on. The story of Staff Sergeant Dillard P. Johnson and his men is the story in microcosm of all the outstanding troops of the 3/7 Cav, whose fine work and bravery will be the field manuals for those who are to follow.

(left) Bradley commander Staff Sgt. Dillard Johnson takes a quick break the second day at Al Samawah to pose with captured flag (now on display at Ft. Stewart) and captured AK (still in Iraq). (above) Before the war, crew of the Carnivore poses with unit flag: Staff Sergeant Johnson, Sergeant Soprano, Specialist Sperry and Specialist Sullivan, in front. Although largely shot-up, they all came home. (below) The first military compound at al Samawah burns fiercely after hard fighting, as does second compound (inset) that was fired up by Broadhead's Abrams. When men returned to Al Samawah with Army historians, locals had stripped it clean of anything usable.



Kuwait: West of the Iraqi border, assembly area Crazy Horse, 19 March 2003:

The Chaplin showed up in the mid-day heat, with a smile and a handshake to bless my M3 Bradley with holy water, for the upcoming battle to free the Iraqi people. I found it very reassuring to know that my Bradley had been blessed by the Chaplain. I had named her Carnivore - I wanted her name to sound powerful. She was the best Bradley I had ever been on. She was a PREPOL (pre-positioned logistics) that had been stored in Kuwait for future military operations, was well maintained, and was a lowmiler. The crew was new. My gunner, Sergeant Michael Soprano, and I had trained together for only four months. We had replaced our driver, Pfc. Jesse Gardener, with Specialist Jason Sperry when Gardener had broken his leg only weeks before. Our loader, SPC Michael Sullivan, had just gotten to the unit before we deployed to Kuwait. He was the new kid, with only months in the Army, and had just turned 19. Sully, as we called him, was from Tampa Bay, Florida, and I had picked him for my vehicle because of his "can do" attitude and unlimited potential.

I didn't have any apprehensions about the new crew or their ability; I knew we were all trained and professional.

On 20 March 2003, at 0700 hours, my crew (RED2)

moved out and set up the troop's boresight panel to adjust weapons sights, then moved back and boresighted our weapons and started cleaning our individual M4 carbines and M9 pistols. It wasn't long after that we had to go into MOPP-4 protective gear: Iraq had sent missiles into Kuwait. That was when I knew we would go to war. Within an hour we had the "all-clear" signal and we were told that our move-out time had been moved up and we were only hours away from going into battle. Up to this point, we weren't real sure that we were even going to go into combat.

I had been in Desert Storm, but this was not the same. In Desert Storm I was just an E-5 and would be following my leaders on the missions. This time, being the most experienced guy in the unit, I knew I would be selected for the toughest missions. The chain of command would be counting on my experience and skill for our unit's success, and this was the point where I started jumping thru my ass on last-minute checks. Staff Segeant Martin Crawford came over to my vehicle with his crew. He had PV2 Yazzie on his crew, a Native American, who had a ceremonial dust from his Grandfather that was to protect our crews. He showed me how to perform the sacred ceremony. I was very proud and honored to be able to do this for our crews. After performing the five-minute ceremony, I felt a sense of safety and was at ease.

This time around, we could use all the help I could get, as



my crew and I would be out in front, leading our troop. I was pleased that my commander, Captain Jeffery McCoy, had faith in me to navigate through enemy terrain and spot the enemy before they could attack us. Captain McCoy was a very intelligent commander, a broadchested man from the mountains of Colorado who would be going into his first test underfire. I had no reservations about his leadership ability.

### **Moving Out**

At 2130 hours, A Troop 3/7 Cavalry moved through the no-

(above) Iraqi troop at AI Samawah: one 25mm round in the leg. Early critics of the Bradley as an effective fighting machine, are strangely silent now.

(right) Crew of Carnivore moves back for fuel- and ammo-resupply after hard fighting at AI Samawah, takes time to display various flags of importance.



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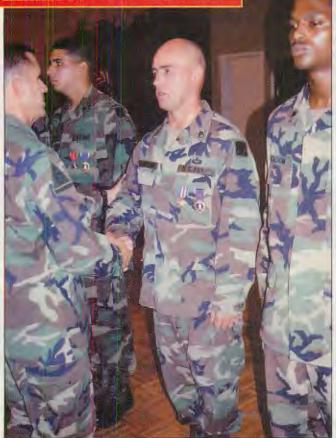
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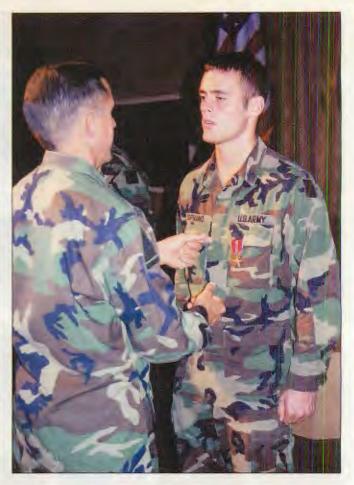
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# **CHARIOTS OF FIREPOWER**



At awards ceremony at Ft. Stewart, Johnson and his men receive the Army's tokens of appreciation for a job well done: Staff Sergeant Johnson (Silver Star, Purple Heart); Sergeant Soprano



(Bronze Star); Specialist Sullivan (Bronze Star, Purple Heart); Sergeant First Class Anthony Broadhead, Abrams commander and Johnson's wingman (Silver Star).



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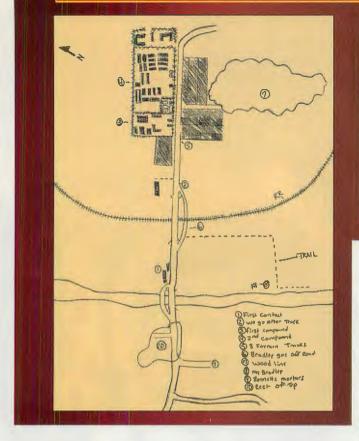
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SPECIAL OP

# **PUNCH-UP AT AL SAMAWAH**



man's land between Iraq and Kuwait. C troop, with my vehicle in the lead, followed. About 5 miles inside Iraq, Crazy Horse (C-Troop) and Apache (A-Troop) moved on line together — we did this until we get to the first refueling point. Apache troop moved north and I took up the lead, not only for Crazy Horse troop, but the rest of the squadron and attachments. It was a good route and an easy move for the first 36 hours. Then I got my first change of mission. I was to move north up Route Mule, which was on the map — but not on the ground, as the shifting sand had covered the route. It was night, very dark, and the squadron had been up on the move for more than 36 hours. I somehow got the troop through Route Mule and back on the highway, moving north.

It was then I made a mistake that almost cost me my Bradley. I was looking in my night-vision goggles (NVGs) for a spot to set up the next refueling site. With no depth perception in my NVGs, I saw a place I thought was flat. To my surprise, when I told my driver to turn, we slid down a steep embankment and almost turned over. My driver, Spec. Sperry, was able to get the Bradley back on the road and keep us going. Sperry was from New York with a very young wife and a small child and had joined the Army as a means of supporting his family. He had only been in the Army for just over two years. As we waited for the fuel trucks to catch up with us, we watched missiles fly high over us on their way north. After refueling, we headed north to Al Samawah.

# **Cheating Death At Al Samawah**

Some 277 kilometers later, just outside of town, the troop got abreast and started moving to our objectives, with 1st and 2nd platoons working in hunter-killer teams, and 3rd and 4th together in teams. My vehicle (RED-2), followed by Sergeant

### Punch-up at AI Samawah covered a lot of ground it was roughly 3 klicks from the canal to the compounds.

### LEGEND:

- 1: First contact
- 2: Bradley goes after truck
- 3: First compound, taken by Johnson's Bradley
- 4: Second compound, taken by Broadhead's Abrams
- 5: Eight Fedayeen trucks destroyed
- 6: Johnson's Bradley goes off road
- 7: Woodline, hiding mortars
- 8: Johnson's Bradley
- 9: Bennett's mortars
- 10: Position of rest of C-Troop

First Class Anthony Broadhead in his M1 Arbams (WHITE 4), was moving toward Objective Pistol, the bridge where we would almost buy the farm. Broadhead was a 21-year veteran of the Army who, like most of our unit, had never experienced combat. But he was a leader that everyone looked up to, including me. Hailing from Virginia Beach, Virginia, Broadhead is laid back and easy to work with. We would come to rely and count on each over the next few weeks.

Broadhead was moving on the road and I was on his right flank, in a field. Broadhead identified enemy dismounts on the bridge and sent a contact report up to the commander over the radio. I laid my 25mm main gun on them, and they started firing at Broadhead's M1. He returned fire with his coax and .50 cal. and I fired my main gun, a 25mm HE, at a bunker with six soldiers in it, blowing them and their bunker away. We took-out nine more Iraqis in the open, then four dismounts ran into a building. The building and the dismounts were destroyed with one shot from the 120mm main gun on the M1.

We reported this to higher and were told to secure the far side of the bridge. Broadhead and I moved across and took up positions on the far side of the bridge. Just as we stopped, an Iraqi Army truck started coming at us — from behind a civilian pick-up truck, so we could not open fire. We started chasing the Iraqi Army truck. As we started moving, Sullivan saw three dismounts firing at us from our left flank. He returned fire, destroying all three with the M240B machine gun. I reported this to my lieutenant, 2nd LT Garrett McAdam. A graduate of the Citadel, and from South Carolina, he was taller than 6 feet and skinny as a rail. Although we worried about having to tie him to a rock during the Iraqi sandstorms, he was an excellent platoon leader.

### **Target-Rich Environment**

The truck we were pursuing turned into a walled military compound. The compound was smaller than most new-car dealership lots, but big enough to hold a couple football fields. Broadhead stopped at the gate and I stopped on the left side of the road. It was mayhem: Enemy dismounts and vehicles were moving everywhere inside the compound, trying to get away from us, and firing at us with everything they had. It was like being in hell. AK-47- and RPG-fire was com-

### Continued on page 74

# "If You Were Forced To Spend One Day As An Inmate Inside The Worst Prison In America And Were Allowed Just ONE Thing To Guarantee Your Survival... <u>This Would Be It</u>!"

Now, a <u>Totally Different Program</u> reveals the one constant that allows YOU to not just level the playing field but actually tilt it in your favor... regardless of the odds against you. by Paul Thomas

ou round a corner... and suddenly a huge hand grabs your shoulder. The grip is so intense all you feel are daggers of pain down your back ... and that knife resting against your throat.

Say 'hi' to Jake... twice in prison for armed robbery, life for this sociopathic scumbag has gone to hell and you're about to become the reason he's headed back...

"Oh shit, what do I do now?"

If that's your reaction... don't feel bad. It's almost everyone's response... regardless of background or training!

It isn't your fault. It's just that nothing has prepared you to handle worst-case, over-the-edge violence... the kind you expect to see only in PRISON. But what's frightening is this: crime stats show 83.7%... nearly everyone... will face this nightmare at least once in our life... and it won't be in prison!

Wouldn't it be nice to never worry about Jake? To have that voice inside confidently say, "Hey, if something happens, I've got it covered! Doesn't matter. He's got a pipe? So what. A gun? Not to worry."

A fantasy? Not any more. Tim Larkin, creator of *Target-Focus*<sup>m</sup> *Training*, the #1 rated self-protection system in the world today, gives you just that.

In a daring move with potentially serious ramifications, he's released a WEAPONS-focused version of his *TFT* system that shows you how to defeat a violent criminal in a **WORSE-than-worst-case** scenario – in prison! After seeing his program... a lifeor-death confrontation in a dark alley is a piece of cake.

Not only does this new series take you inside the criminal mind, it goes way beyond... showing you how and why you must first learn to USE a weapon... if you ever hope to defeat a criminal using it against you! Highly unconventional and extremely controversial it teaches you how to get your focus off the weapon... and onto defeating the REAL threat.

Packed into a tight video series, it's cold, calculated and very straightforward. There's no hype or bullshit. Just a total focus on dealing with violence.

You'll be shocked at it's focus on action and simplification. A criminal is all about simplicity – "just stab him." Complicate how you deal with him and his simplicity wins... every time. That's part of why this system is unlike anything you've seen before!

But the program isn't about posturing, then getting into say, a knife fight. You may be good at knife fighting. Who cares. The real issue is: if you're involved in a violent crime and you need to bash someone's head in to save your life... can you do it?

Jim, a highly ranked spec op guy who saw parts of the videos noted, "If I ever walked through the gates of prison this is exactly what I'd need to know." And before you snicker about "never being in prison", remember this: run into Jake... and you ARE there!

During filming a woman holding the boom mic commented, "You can't show that. It's illegal!"

WRONG! That's why Larkin released his new

material in this format. Virtually everyone puts rules or restrictions into their self-protection system -- often without knowing it. Face a predator without morals or rules like yours and you're screwed. When it becomes life-or-death, you need to be able to go whole-hog... and this new program shows you whole-hog -- plus!

These videos will instantly change your mindset on how you picture yourself in a violent confrontation ... regardless of your training or whose videotapes you've watched. Even the military ones.

That's the world Larkin comes from so he knows it intimately. He spends little time talking about his years as a spec op Naval officer because it focuses on what he's done... and not <u>what YOU get</u> from his system!

He's quick to note that military systems notoriously are outdated and inefficient when dealing with on-thestreet criminal violence. Sophisticated weapons and proficient operators mean hand-to-weapon training takes a back seat. Fine for them... bad for you.

It's why even though he trains military, government and law enforcement he's focused his efforts on worstcase civilian violent confrontations with dramatic success. He's trained individuals around the globe (in 2003 in Europe, Mexico and Australia, and even on a private cruise ship in the Baltic Sea); next year it's the Middle East and Asia. Real violence in the US often pales compared to the everyday international violence he's called in to prep for.

But terrorism and escalating violence in the US has compelled him to release his material in a dramatic new format. And there's nobody that's ever shown it like this. Not even the military. Everyone is terrified of public reaction.

Larkin's take: you must know what gives you the greatest chance for surviving a lethal confrontation. "If it saves one life... it'll be worth the hassle I know I'm setting myself up for. To competently fight someone with a weapon you need to know how to fight with one... intimately. Now you're gonna see it."

Where others show you how to avoid a knife, he shows you how to work with and against it. They wind up <u>empowering the knife</u>. **He empowers you**!

Some foolishly feel this stuff is too violent, ignoring the fact you don't need to push it to levels shown on these tapes. You can always ramp it down. It's just that you can't ramp it up and kill someone if you've never done that before.

Still he's taking a huge risk and will catch a lot of flack. Violence is ugly, vicious and upsetting and you'll see lots of disclaimers running across the screens of these videos. Some will be shocked, dismayed, offended and <u>outraged that anyone would dare show</u> <u>this stuff</u>. They'll raise a huge stink... and do everything possible to get this yanked. But better you see this on video than have Jake show you in real life!

Everything you'll see here is vintage *TFT*. You learn to hurt someone very quickly (every sequence shows killing movements right from the start). There's no size, speed or quickness required. Anyone can learn this because it's based on principles not one person's skills.

Guys that have been in the trenches for years, those who have seen everything, are blown away by the simple brutality and effectiveness of this system, by its total focus on YOU and the competence of Larkin's instructors, including their knowledge of anatomy and how to inflict trauma on the human body. Each instructor averages 10 years of training, and Larkin himself has taught over 5 000 individ



Tim Larkin, creator of Target-Focus Training

has taught over 5,000 individuals worldwide.

Surprisingly most of his instructors aren't 'jocks'. Many have advanced degrees; five hold PhD's! When he says *TFT* is <u>built on science</u>... he isn't bullshitting. His advisory board includes two medical doctors who assure Larkin and his instructors offer accurate, scientific based, up-do-date information about inflicting trauma on the human body (that's why his system is so devastating: you learn not only the HOW... but the WHY).

Unfortunately a program this controversial isn't for everyone. If you think seeing what it takes to survive in prison is overkill, that it's "too lethal" or "too violent"; if you're uncomfortable using a knife or dealing with how people try to kill you; if you think this program's about some predetermined movements or that you're gonna see lots of cool setup techniques -- you can stop reading here.

This stuff WILL set your hair on edge... but realize a criminal on the street (or locked up in the pen) already knows this... he lives it everyday. He doesn't need some video to learn from. That's why Larkin doesn't worry about this getting into the wrong hands. It's already there. You're the one who needs to see it. And now... for the very first time... you can.

Listen. I understand you may find all this hard to believe. Before I saw these videos that's how I felt too. Unfortunately there's not room to adequately describe here the <u>shocking reality of what Larkin</u> <u>has created for you</u>. That's why he's not asking for a penny of your money now. Instead he'll spend his own cash to put a detailed Special Report into your hands that will prove everything you've just read and explain more about why this program is so TOTALLY DIFFERENT from anything you've every seen before.

All you need to do to get his free report is to pick up the phone and call **360-850-1093**. There's a short recorded message and then you can leave your name and address so the report can be mailed to you. Or if you prefer you can get this report on-line at www.targetfocusweapons.com

Don't fool around and miss this opportunity. It doesn't cost you a thing. So go on-line or call right now.



FARNAM'S GUNSLINGER DIARY + BY JOHN FARNAM

# The M9 Pistol (Beretta 92F)

here is much stirring recently within the USMC and several other serious military units with regard to the 9mm M9 pistol, which displaced the .45 ACP 1911A1 pistol back in 1985. In the intervening 18 years, the M9 pistol has gained the dubious title of the most disliked, most disparaged, most unpopular firearm ever issued to American soldiers since the discredited French CSRG (Chauchat) light machine gun was foisted upon American doughboys in WWI.

I remember the JSAPS project that selected the M9. The M9 was supposed to supersede all other pistols, so there would be only one pistol in the entire military system. The move to 9X19mm caliber was preordained, since that is the pistol caliber that was (and still is) used by our NATO allies. The fact that U.S. soldiers had a separate pistol caliber was never an issue during WWII, Korea, or Vietnam. But, by 1985 this discrepancy apparently became intolerable, at least in the minds

of "one-world" politicians.

The cover story was that the Beretta pistol outperformed all others during tests. The real reason was, of course, that the Italians wanted to sell us expen-

sive guns and also get a manufacturing foothold on U.S. soil. So, they threatened to close our air bases in Italy if we didn't buy their overpriced pistols. In other words, the "selection process" was politically influenced, as it is for most other military equipment.

In any event, 18 years later, the M9 has shown itself to be reliable, but not durable. Parts breakage is the big problem. Thus, keeping them running is the real issue, particularly when they are fired a lot. The pistol is big, fat, bulky, and not suitable for concealed-carry, as is often a requirement these



days, even for soldiers. The system for operating the two-stage decocking lever is surely learnable, but, as we all know, the Army is afraid of guns, indeed petrified of *loaded* guns, so soldiers (even officers) are commanded never to load the pistol anyway. Smart ones ignore such stupid orders, get competent training (outside the military), and then carry their pistols loaded anyway, as I have reported.

So legion have been the complaints about the M9, that SIG pistols have now made their way into the system, and even 1911 pistols (in .45 ACP) can be seen in the hands of certain elite units that have enough political autonomy to ignore orders to use only issue gear. We're now back to multiple pistols, the exact thing the JSAPS project was designed to end forever.

# We don't carry pistols, because they're effective. We carry pistols, because they're convenient.

Suggested solutions range from dumping pistols altogether and issuing short rifles instead, to returning to the 1911. Neither extreme is likely to see the light of day. Indeed, there is a movement within the USMC to return to the M14 rifle and the .308 round, and, though I am in sympathy, that probably won't happen either. As I have reported, the American military is getting a new rifle caliber (6.8mm) and a new rifle to shoot it. We may end up with a new pistol also, probably in .40 S&rW caliber.

In the interim, we all need to understand this: We don't carry pistols, because they're effective. We carry pistols, because they're *convenient*. If they are inconvenient (bulky; hard to operate), that benefit would appear to be lost. We carry pistols as a deterrent against unexpected threats. We carry rifles when we are facing *expected* threats. Rifles are not convenient to carry, nor are they concealable, and if you add "ineffective" to that list, once again, the point would appear to be lost.

Pistols need to be convenient and concealable, and at least marginally effective. Rifles are going, of necessity, to be inconvenient, so they need, at least, to be effective. It's a simple formula. One can only wonder why the American military bureaucracy, after all these years, still can't seem to get it.

John Farnam may be reached at JSFarnam@aol.com. 🕱

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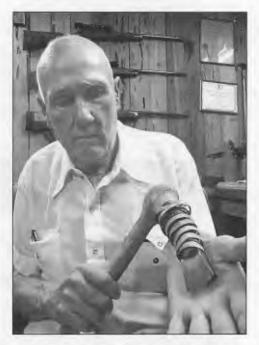


# COPER'S COPPER CHOPPER An Interesting Piece Of War Gear

BY LT. COL. JEFF COOPER (RET.)

verybody's favorite study appears to be archaeology at least everyone I know seems eager to talk about it. When the body of Ötzi the Iceman was discovered back in 1991, an explosion of new information about the Neolithic (or New Stone Age) filled the scene. An entirely new look at the lifestyle of our ancestors of fifty-three hundred years past was revealed.

The people living at that time in the Upper-Adige displayed a stoneage culture that was exactly on the edge of The Age of Metals. Most of their tools and instruments were made of flaked stone, but they did know how to work copper to some extent. The Iceman's body, when thoroughly analyzed, was accompanied by a sampling of useful artifacts including a bow, several arrows, a small util-



As the Neolithic Age developed into the Bronze Age, native copper was worked for its useful properties. Because copper and bronze are attacked by their environs more slowly than is iron, more implements from the bronze age have survived than have from the early Iron Age that followed — including this implement Lt. Col. Cooper deems to be a weapon.

ity knife, fire-starting devices, and what has come to be called an axe. As a semi-professional hoplologist I find this last piece peculiarly interesting. It is a one-handed, angular chopping device with a yew shaft and a wedgeshaped cutting head made of pure copper. The copper did show minor traces of silver and arsenic, but no vestige of tin, which in alloy with copper makes bronze. Copper is termed a "soft metal," as opposed to iron, and is not nearly as strong as true bronze, which contains from 5 to 15 percent tin. Ötzi's instrument is 24 inches long and weighs 1-1/2 pounds. The cutting head is set vertically into a rectangular protrusion, which places its edge 8 inches from the axis of the shaft. The piece weighs a pound and a half, making it light and handy for one-handed use. I do not believe it should be called an axe, however, because its cutting edge is only 1-1/2 inches broad, and it is too narrow for the hewing action we attribute to an axe. It is suitable for delivering a penetrating wound into animal tissue, but not for hacking-off heads or limbs: thus it seems more lethal than a knob-stick such as depicted on Egyptian frescos. It could be used as a skull-splitter, or as a "dagger driver"

Continued on page 79

# Puts functional strength into every fiber of your being ...

# "The #1 Total Body Fitness Program on the **Planet – Turns You Into An Unstoppable Butt-Kicking** Machine... Damn Near Instantly"

Follow the Legendary Routine That Simultaneously Catapults Your Strength, Endurance and Flexibility to record levels. Feel the results that tens of thousands are raving about worldwide... by Frank Sherrill

I was the total skeptic. Not only had I lifted weights for years, but after 21 years in the martial arts and several more in the military, I thought I'd seen it all. So I just didn't believe Matt Furey when he said you can get kick-butt fit with body-weight calisthenics, that I figured I went through in bootcamp. Besides, I could bench 400 and squat 625. So there's no way I was going to fall for a routine that I figured I already knew. Been there, done that!

But I couldn'r shake this feeling that Furey might be right. I had read about the Great Gama of India, a wrestler who followed this program and was unbeaten in 5,000 matches. In terms of size and strength, he was amazing. He was 5'7" and 260 pounds of streaming steel. And that was in the early 1900<sup>†</sup>s – long before steroids.

1900's - long before steroids. I had heard that Bruce Lee did the exercises Furey teaches, roo. And we all know about Lee's incredible ripped, lean, mus-cular look. Not to mention how lightning fast and fluid he was. I had heard that Herschel Walker, a Heisman Trophy winner and All-Pro Running back did 500 pushups and situps each day. So that made me think even more.

And then the final straw was when I started to read all the testimonials that Furey had collected from fellow military (I have included several of them in this article).

And then, of course, there is Furey, the author of Combat Conditioning and the man GRAPPLING magazine dubbed "The King of Catch Wrestling." Furey has been featured in major martial arts magazines around the world, has been on the cover of several - and is certainly no slouch when it comes to having and using functional strength. He was a world champion in Shuai-chiao kung fu and a national collegiate champion wrestler. Something told me he had to be telling the truth.

I figured the only way I would ever know for sure would be to get the program and use it. I told myself that if what I was

to get the program and use it. I told myself that if what i was reading was nothing but marketing hype – I would not only be angry – but I would let everyone in the world know about it. So I bought Furey's *Combat Conditioning* book and read it. In the book he challenges the readers with a test. 100 Hindu squars, followed by 50 Hindu pushups, then a one-minute back bridge.

Figuring this would be easy, I got started. At 40 Hindu squats my thighs were blitzed. It took abour 90 seconds; not

squats my thighs were biltzed. It took about 90 seconds; not long compared to my squat routine at the gym. Next, I tried the Hindu pushups. Funny thing is my legs were still shaking. I dipped down and pushed back. At 15 my arms were throbbing. This couldn't be. No way. I could bench like there's no tomorrow and this exercise was nuking me. I gave up at 27 reps. This took about 1.5 minutes, so my workout had only been 2.5 minutes long.

Then the bridge. After three unsuccessful attempts of ten seconds, I gave up. The next day my legs, chest and arms were sore, but in a good way. I thought my legs got 10 times more work with weights, but I was wrong. Over the course of three months my body changed big

time. In fact, I've made a list of 12 of the most amazing bene-fits that I and thousands of others all over the world have gotten from the *Combat Conditioning* program. I'm betting these are important to you, too:

- 1. I blow-torched off my excess body fat so quickly that I could eat more than I normally did and still look better than ever.
- I packed and chiseled functional muscle onto my 2. legs, chest and back that I've never had before, even from weights.
- 3. I simultaneously doubled my strength and flexibility and did so without needing separate workouts for each.
- 4. I quadrupled my endurance inside of 30 days. Just think how much this helped my sparring. No matter what, I NEVER get tired.
- The chronic back and shoulder pain I had from years of heavy squats, deadlifts and bench pressing went away within a couple weeks. And much of that pain had been with me for nearly 10 years. It's GONE now.

- 6. I sleep like a log. Eight hours of deep sleep is no longer a goal. It's automatic. As soon as I hit the rack I'm out like a light.
- My self-confidence knows no bounds. Especially 7. when I got compliments from people who hardly paid attention to me before. I honestly believe there is nothing I cannot do. I'm on top of the world.
- 8. I can train anywhere. I don't need more than a few square feet of carpet or pavement and I'm all set. I have absolutely no excuses and my body is loving me for it. I don't need any equipment. Just my own bodyweight.
- I get a kick-burt workout done in 15 minutes or less. Sure, I could do more but I've gotten incredible results with this amount - so why ruin a good thing?
- 10. I've turned back the clock. My friends tell me I look 5 - 10 years younger. Awesome!!
- 11. I have an explosive type of strength that weights couldn't give me. My movements are super fast even when I'm just screwing around.
- 12. My muscles are like a pliable and powerful tiger ready to pounce on prey in a heartbeat. there you have it. The 12 reasons why Combat

Conditioning is the best fitness program on the planet. But

# forget about me. Take a look at what some others in the military have to say about this program:

Matt, I am a US Marine stationed overseas. I am also a wrestlerljudoka and the Marine who developed the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. I use your courses regularly. I like your no-nonsense approach. Particularly as I get older, bodyweight exercises are quick, flexible, all-encompassing and convenient. Keep up the good work! Lt Colonel George Bristol – USMC

Mr. Furey, We have been applying the principle of 'mastering your own body weight' to our football program and have been pleased. A 12 – 1 championship season last year was our reward. Thank you sir. Bonner Cunnings

Yosemite, CA Dear Matt,

When I got your book, I changed my whole way of thinking about how one should train for Combatives. I am now totally off the weights, and, to tell you the truth, I have never felt better or been more flexible in my life. I feel great and have lost no size, strength, or muscle mass... as a result I scored the maximum number of points on the Army Physical Fitness test. HOOAH! You are doing great things, and I and the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School owe you a lot. TREAT'EM ROUGH!

CPT Judd D. Mabfouz -Infantry

Infantry Dear Mr. Furey, Let me say I have benefited a los from both your Combat Conditioning and Combat Abs book. I am a Marine stationed on Okinawa, Japan and I do a lot of kickboxing and NHB fighting on the side. Your exercises have given me a tremendous advantage me a tremendous advantage and combined with my other routines (shadowboxing, spar ring, bagwork, wind sprints, and grappling drills) have got ten me into the best shape of

my life. LCpl Sandor Devenyi – United States Marine Corp

Yes, Please Send Me Combat Conditioning: Functional Exercises & Combat Sports book for only \$29.95 plus \$6 S&H (\$12 foreign S&H), and if I'm one of the first 25 to order, I will also receive 3 Special Reports on eliminating knee, back and shoulder pain.

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Matt Furey, author of the best-selling Combat Conditioning

Dear Matt,

Dear Matt, Being a U.S. Marine in a field unit, I spend much of my time in Physical Training, and I'll admit, I thought that I was in peak physical condition. 2 months ago I began your Combat Conditioning program and quickly realized that I had been missing something. While platoon PT consists of mostly run-ning and incorporates some bodyweight exercises (i.e. pushups, pull-ups, crunches) I had been spending the bulk of my per-sonal training time in the weight room, lifting heavy. It embarrassed me the first time I tried to do a reverse pushup and couldn't. I haven't set foot in the weight room in the last and couldn't. I haven't set foot in the weight room in the last and couldn's. I haben I set job in the beigh room in the das 2 months. My 3 mile run time has dropped to below 18 min-utes, I've lost a good 10 lbs and my body fat has dropped 496. You can see the difference and God knows, I can feel the dif-ference. I've introduced the rest of my squad to your program. Thanks for helping us kick ass and take names in a hellish

and unforgiving manner. D "Bubba" Byng – LCPL, USMC "Golf" Co, MCS Battallion

Matt Furey's Combat Conditioning: Functional Exercises for Fitness & Combat Sports has 48 super effective body-weight exercises along with seven different programs that will get you into kick-butt shape fast. Be one of the first 25 people to order and you'll receive 3 free Special Reports on how to eliminate knee, back and shoulder pain.

Your toral investment in this no nonsense book is only \$29.95 plus \$6 S&H U.S. (foreign orders add \$12). Order online at www.mattfurey.com. Or pick up the phone right now and call I 813 994 8267 to order.

You can also send a money order to Matt Furey Enterprises, Inc., 10339 Birdwatch Drive, Tampa, FL, 33647.

# TERRORISM



BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

**GLOBAL IMMIGRANT ROUTES** used for undercover non-specific terrorists without documents to penetrate West, as new ploy in Jihadist strategy. PIRATE ATTACKS ANTICIPATED, FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE: Al-Qaeda purchases 15-ship armada flying Yemeni and Somalian flags, for suspected attacks at sea targeting chemical tankers, gas terminals at ports, civilian ports, cruise liners, and for massive arms- smuggling. Ships believed hidden in Indian or Pacific oceans. Jihadists training in piloting ships, diving and maritime skills. TIMOR SEA: U.S. Navy think-tank fears pirate attacks against Joint Petroleum Development Area, which is "vulnerable to attack."

**UNITED STATES** *SPIES* infiltrating military bases, as three arrested; one Egyptian translator carrying CD with Guantanamo Bay info; another charged with passing secrets to enemies. PAK-ISTANI CHARITABLE TRUST, labeled terrorist-funding entity for suspected attacks in Iraq and complicity in murder of *Wall Street Journal's* Daniel Pearl. PENTAGON surplus products suitable for bacteriological weapons being sold on website, with terrorist purchasers. MILITARY trains weekly for shooting down hijacked civilian airplane in attempt to avoid another 9-11 Twin Towers catastrophe. MONEY-LAUNDERING, using convenience stores selling stolen goods in Cincinnati, said to fund global terrorism.

**PHILIPPINES** SUSPECTED JEMAAH ISLAMIYAH's top Indonesian bombmaker Fathur Al-Ghozi killed in police shootout after three-month manhunt. Al-Ghozi suspected of series of Manila bombings and bombing of Philippine Ambassador (AP) ABU SAYYAF: Seven killed.

> INDUNESIA JEMAAH ISLAMIYA, Tunded by al-Qaeda, used for Marriot hotel bombing, JI leaders told Indonesian press. Hundred suspects arrested since Bali bombing.



**COLOMBIA** FARC expands territory and operators, recruiting Peruvians and Ecuadorians for training. Guerrilla groups organizing in Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru.

VENEZUELA AL-QAEDA and HEZBOLLAH members with traudulent Venezuelan identities, thought to be harbored by President Hugo Chavez. CUBAN TIES: Chavez-Castro alliance uses Cuban and Libyan advisors in key Venezuelan posts. CHAVEZ opponents claim thousands of FARC and ELN Colombian guerrillas are being illegally naturalized to support Chavez's Circulos Bolivarianos guerillas. (UPI) **BELGIUM** SPIDER-WEB TRIAL, Tunisian soccer player Nizar Trabeisi gets 10 years in the slammer for planning to kill Americans with car bomb at Kleine Brogel Air Base, Belgian NATO post. ASSASSINATION SUSPECT Tarek Maarouli gets six years for complicity in assassination of Massoud, commander of Northern Alliance in Afghanistan on 9-9 2001.

UNITED KINGODM BIN LADEN video, with masked man showing wiring of delonators and bomb-making instructions, worries authorities of "home-grown" militant movement (Observer). QUEEN ELIZABETH feared as al-Qaeda target during Nigerian visit, late 2003.

PALESTINE YASIR ARAFAT allegedly diverted \$900 million (WorldNetDaily).

IRAQ AL-QAEDA-SADDAMIST alliance of former Saddam regime training 18,000 combatants in 100 countries. U.S. officials fear Hezbollah-like Lebanon suicide-bombing of Marine barracks that killed 241. "SUNNI TRIANGLE," sup-ported by Saudis northwest of Baghdad, with 20% of population controlled by U.S. 4th Infantry considered "last combat zone" believed to be Saddam hideout. AHMAD CHALABI, U.S.-chosen successor to Saddam's promised underground petwork that would support U.S. forces, appea underground network that would support U.S. forces, appears to be sham. NEW AL-QAEDA chief Abu Hazim al-Sha'ir suspected operating in Saudi.

RAN BIN LADEN SON Saad believed to be actively commanding Iranian al-Qaeda branch. ISFAHAN NUCLÉAR FACILI-TY, concealed from International Atomic Energy Agency during pretext of cooperation. Nuclear capability in 2005 expected.

AFGHANISTAN DRUGS FOR ARMS number one poppy-grower, also has thriving arms trade.

SYRIA U.S.-APPROVED ISRAELI missile strike on alleged Palestinian training seen as offensive used as alternative to invasion to pressure Syria to close Palestinian and querrilla camps.

# SAUDI ARABIA THOUSANDS IN

CUSTODY, with Terrorists' threats ongoing. DRUG profits, more than \$500 million, fund tons of terrorists' weapons and explosives, including rocket-propelled grenades and explosives, on Yemeni border.

# PAKISTAN 52 SUSPECTED TALIBAN

AND AL-QAEDA OPERATIVES arrested on Afghan border. BIN LADEN's sec-ond in command, Ayman Al Zawahiri, calls on Pakistanis to overthrow President Pervez Musharraf; 15 arrested, mainly Malaysians suspect-ed of lemaab Islamiyab ties ed of Jemaah Islamiyah ties.

**QATAR** WARNING from Bush Admin-

istration: Stop Al-Jazeera, "CNN of Arab World" from mobilizing Jihadists and serving as messenger to al-Qaeda.

NUA SPECOPS JOINT-TRAINING with Israel planned. India cooperating with U.S. to isolate Iran.

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ORDERING INFO	Circle Size	Circle Embroidery Color	Quantity	Price	Back Logo (OPTIONAL - Circle If Yes)	Personalization (OPTIONAL - Circle If Yes)	Shipping EACH	Total
#JK001M SOF Leather Bomber Jacket	SMLXL	red/green	0	\$249.95	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$12.00	
#JK001M SOF Leather Bomber Jacket	XXL XXXL	red/green	@	\$259.95	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$12.00	
#JK002M SOF Flight Jacket	SMLXL	red/green	@	\$99.95	n/a	\$5.00	\$9.00	
#JK002M SOF Flight Jacket	XXL XXL	red/green	0	\$109.95	n/a	\$5.00	\$9.00	
#JK003M SOF Satin Jacket	SMLXL	red/green	0	\$39.95	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$9.00	
#JK003M SOF Satin Jacket	XXL XXXL	red/green	0	\$44.95	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$9.00	
#H001M SOF CAP		n/a	0	\$17.95	n/a	n/a	\$3.00	
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suede brim. Similar in style to the "Black Hats" that U.S. Army Airborne

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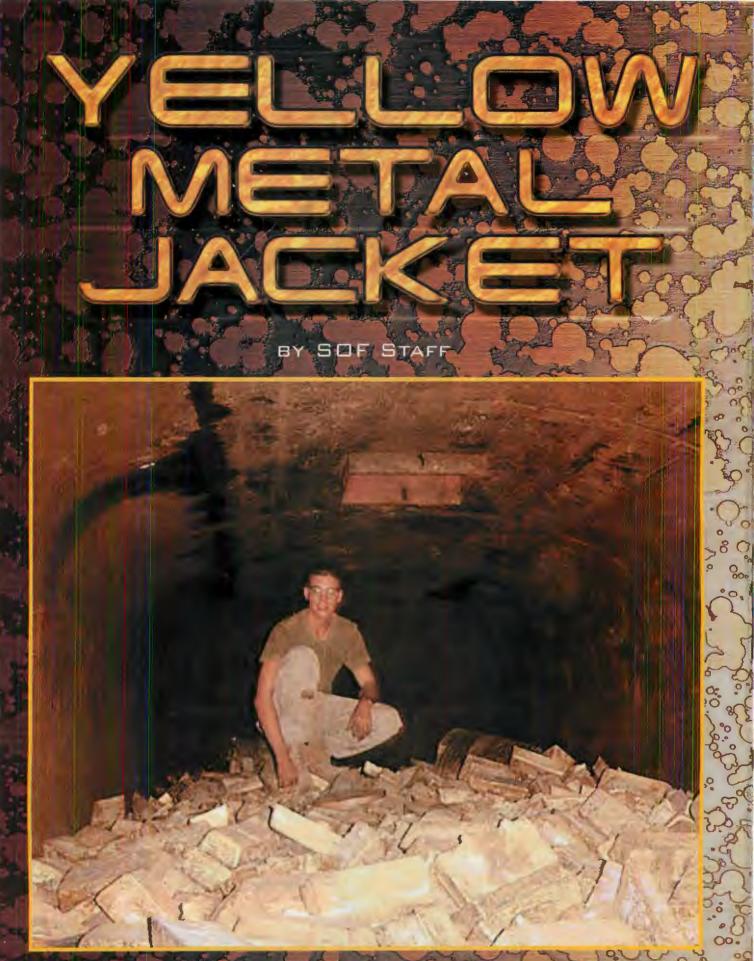
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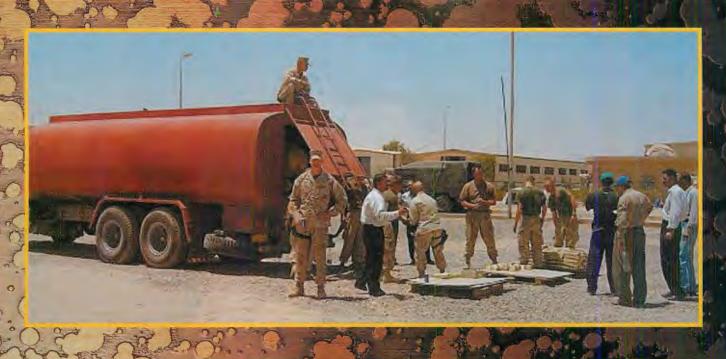
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Get da he'll outta there, you goldbrick! (No, not you, Gyrene, we're talking to the cargo)

\*



Judging from the vehicle's suspension, a short load of yellowmetal ingots is heavier than a full load of fuel. No problem getting volunteers to unload it, as this is a Guaranteed-Trump war story (as in, one-up on yer war story).

(right) Crudely cast ingots appear to be the work of a salvage operation that in all probability gleaned everything from dental work to jewelry, to coinage, to artifacts. Whether they were intended to be Dorré bars for refining, stashed or sold as is, is anybody's guess. The Leathernecks, of course, kept a good count.

The flotsam and jetsam of electronic communiqués from the war zone occasionally include some real (no pun intended) nuggets of the bizarre. Such is this message and attached photos we received from various USMC correspondents in the Babylon area, which we pass along here without need of comment.

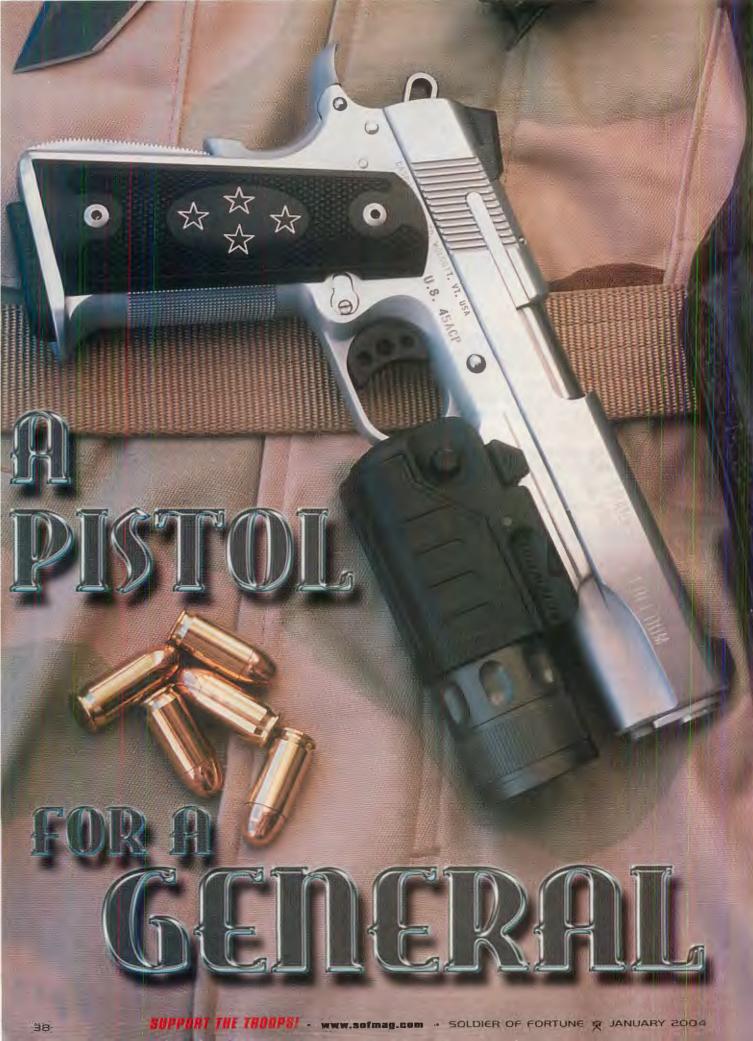
At approximately 301000Z, Jul 03, the governor's brother, Ahmed (Abu Saif) Witwit, who is in charge of city hall security, reported the following information to TF 1/4 XO, Maj. Holahan: Three days ago, local police stopped a fuel truck because it had improper license plates. The driver was released (NFI why), and the truck impounded at the government's truck lot. This morning, the governor's brother received an anonymous phone call, offering 15 million Iraqi Dinar for the fuel truck. The governor's brother claims he declined the offer, mustered six security personnel, and proceeded to the impound lot. At the impound lot, they inspected the vehicle. There were six padlocks that sealed the fuel-storage tank. The fuel-storage tank was empty of fuel but allegedly had "some sort of metal bricks." The truck was taken to city hall and turned over to Major Holahan.

The truck was subsequently brought here to Babylon. Here are the pictures of what was in the fuel truck. Sounds like a movie script. The bricks are being tested now.  $\Re$ 





Now, Col. Brown is a solid Marine: The reason he's listing to port is that any ingot with a significant percentage of gold (and/or silver or platinum group metals) is going to be heavy.



# D&L Sports Builds A Special Pistol For A Special Hombre TEXT & PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

hat does it take to become a general in the United States Army? Since my uncle retired as an Army brigadier general, I know it takes someone special with integrity, dedication, love of country, a love for the military, and, well, you get the picture. I remember some 30

years ago having a .45 ACP Model of 1911 pistol more or less specially done up for my uncle. It's a pistol he still cherishes to this day. Funny how the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Not long ago, I was approached by custom gunsmith Dave Lauck, of D&L Sports, in Gillette, Wyoming, to do a story on two special-presentation, engraved, gold-inlaid Ruger revolvers he and others had sponsored as gifts to President Bush and Vice President Cheney. With these guns, were equally fine holsters from Alfonso's of Hollywood, and Trail Master Bowie Knives from Cold Steel. While I don't know or care about the fine details, when certain people heard about this presentation, Lauck was approached about a presentation pistol for none other than General Tommy Franks. Lauck readily agreed to head up the project and asked what kind of pistol the General would like. The answer was a .45 ACP Model 1911.

If anyone knows how to build a custom 1911 pistol, it's Dave Lauck and, as with the Presidential revolvers, Dave invited a select number of contributors to become involved in creating a unique1911 pistol for this unique American warrior. Insisting on major components from Caspian Arms, Lauck contacted Caspian's Gary Smith who gladly supplied him with a matched slide and frame for the pistol. By special request, it came without Caspian's usual front slide-retracting grooves. This slide incorporates Caspian's external extractor, and on each side to the rear of the standard retracting grooves is the famous Caspian logo.

Not just any 1911 frame, this one came with Caspian's integral Recon M1913 Picatinny-style rail. Not only are frame rails extremely popular on auto pistols, but those of true-M1913 spec are the most useful. Caspian's frame rail is CNC machined to MilSpec and will accept all major tactical handgun lights using M1913-spec mounts.

Another unique feature of the Caspian frame is an integral magazine-well funnel and finger extension. The front strap is also perfectly machine-checkered with 30 LPI. The unique seri-

al number of this frame is "U.S. 45 ACP." As with most of D&I's 1911s, this one would be fitted with a stainlesssteel match-grade .45 ACP barrel furnished by BAR-STO Precision. Novak Design donated a set of Novak LoMount Sights for the gun, and the finest internal components were selected to complete the pistol. When General Franks' pistol was completely fitted and test fired, Dave Lauck had the left front side of the slide engraved:

GEN. TOM FRANKS OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM Also engraved in small letters is: D&L Sports Custom

D&L Sports G	eneral Franks 1911	
SPECII	ICATIONS	1
Caliber:	.45 ACP	1
Muzzle Velocity:	850 fps.	P
Operation:	Browning short-recoil	
Type of Fire:	Single-action, semi-automatic	
Barrel Length:	5 inches	1
<b>Overall Length:</b>	8.5 inches	-
Weight:	39 oz.	
Safety:	Thumb and grip safeties	1
Feed Device:	7-shot box magazine	,
Sights:	Novak LoMount	1
Grips:	Black checkered Aluma Grips	1
Finish:	Durachrome	
<b>Special Features:</b>	Caspian Recon Rail frame	



General Tommy Franks (above) proudly displays his Custom D&L Sports Presentation 1911 .45 ACP pistol and Strider SpecOps fighting Knife.

(opposite) General Franks' D&L Custom 1911 pistol was "issued" with a SureFire Nytrolon Tactical Pistol Light that can be instantly attached and removed from its integral M1913 frame rail.

> For grip panels, Dave Lauck selected a pair of Aluma Grips. Made of aircraft quality aluminum, Aluma Grips are checkered and hard-anodized in matte black. Lauck ordered a special-style Aluma Grips with a plain oval panel in the center on each side. On each of these panels, Dave had four five-point stars engraved, each one standing out as silver on black. Other than the Novak Sights and the polymer adjustable trigger, the Aluma Grips would be the only parts of the pistol to be black.

After being test fired for function

Continued on page 77

# ODA 2025 "Disappears" Tons Of Munitions

# TEXT & PHOTOS BY PAUL AVALLONE

The initial blast of the 500+ Chinese 107 rockets, viewed from approximately 700 meters away. It's the dream of any schoolboy who has thrown cherry bombs in toilets, lit strings of firecrackers under bleachers and slapped M-80s into mailboxes. It's post-war Afghanistan, where the opportunity to make really big Booms is just around the corner, at the next uncovered weapons cache. If a guy doesn't want to go through the trouble of becoming Special Forces for the thrill of a really big bang, there's a quicker and easier route through the Army's Explosive Ordnance Detachments (EOD). What SF unearths, often EOD is called in to make disappear in fire, black smoke and a mushroom cloud.

That was the case with my Special Forces team, ODA 2025, during its deployment in eastern Afghanistan, a region ruled for centuries by warring warlords, including, in the 1980s by the heavily-armed Russians and in the 1990s by the ruthless Taliban.

fghanistan's culture of "might makes right," in which physical power is respected more than anything. In such an environment, the accruement of materiel that brings one, or maintains, that physical power — in a nutshell, the stock-

ing of guns and ammunition — is a top priority.

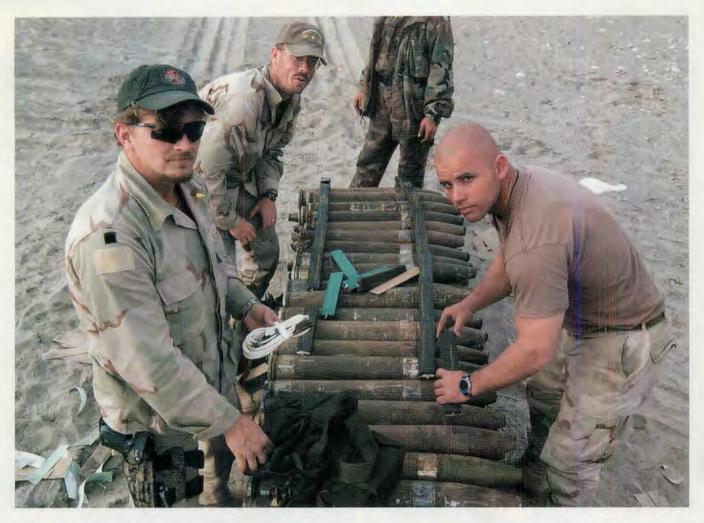
During seven months in eastern Afghanistan, I was constantly amazed at just how much guns and ammunition the Afghans had stored hidden away, from tiny caches behind false walls in living compounds to caches that filled the various buildings within rural warlords' fortress compounds. (See last month's SOF article, "The Guns of Afghanistan.") Most all the ammunition was of Russian or Chinese origin. dating from the 1980s' Russian occupation. Allowing the Afghans to now keep the munitions is an invitation for their using them in inter-warlord fighting, and worse, against the American forces.

My team was in country less than two weeks and just getting its feet wet, beginning to learn the intricacies of the power structure, when it uncovered the first huge cache. Understand that caches are not found by patrolling the countryside and sniffing them out. That would be like looking for needles among a thousand different haystacks. Finding a cache begins with an Afghan (a "source") going to the Americans, (in most cases, the Special Forces ODA operating in the area), and telling them of the cache under an agreement that the source will get a financial reward from, say,





Joe, a sergeant from the Explosive Ordnance Detachment, and a MRF trained in demolitions rig munitions to destroy. This small stash includes rockets, land mines, mortars and grenades. (inset) ODA 2025 engineer (demolitions specialist) Sergeant First Class Chuck and Air Force Tac-P Frank (attached to the ODA) observe the demolitons of tons of munitions discovered in a series of caves in eastern Afghanistan. At a distance of approximately 800 meters from the explosion, Chuck and Frank assumed they were safe, but rocks and debris flew that far over their heads.



ODA engineer (and demolitions specialist) Chuck (left) lays C-4 blocks with EOD Dan and Joe on a stack of more than five hundred Chinese 107 rockets. The rockets were a part of a cache of more than a thousand rockets, thousands of mortar rounds and other ammunition that ODA 2025 uncovered in rural eastern Afghanistan.

\$50.00 U.S. to a few hundred, or few thousand dollars, depending on the size of the cache, for the information if it proved accurate.

# **Enter General Malick**

In the very first case, fresh in the country, the ODA was approached by one of Eastern Corps Commander General Ali's sub-commanders, General Malick, who claimed that a militia force unfriendly to the new Afghan government (and thus unfriendly to the U.S.) had a large cache of rockets, mortars and ammunition in a series of desert caves fewer than 20 kilometers as the crow flies from our base in Jalalabad. Further, Malick claimed that it was rockets from that cache that had only recently been employed in random attacks against the Jalalabad airfield, adjacent to which was the ODA's MRF compound.

Respecting the position and integrity of the source, General Malick, the ODA mounted-up with its MRF and headed for the area. Approaching the caves, the ODA saw that they were guarded by a cadre of militiamen that, because militias in Afghan, even if they are part of an officially sanctioned government force, are not necessarily dressed in uniforms, appeared to the Americans new to the country, to be renegades. From the distance, approaching in their Toyota pickups, the team saw some of the militiamen pull a tarp from a mounted Dashika machine gun, and Captain Jim immediately gave the order for the pickups to disperse and come on line. More importantly, Jim directed the men to shoot if that Dashika was swung around and aimed on them.

"It was pure good luck," Jim explained, "that Deke noticed something and came on the radio and said, "Wait a second. Isn't that an Afghan flag up there?" Intel Sergeant Deke's observation had been correct. "And why would they be flying the Afghan flag," Jim clarified, "if they were unfriendly to the government?" The ODA stopped and sent one truck of MRF forward, cautiously, peaceably. The militiamen turned out to be soldiers under another of General Ali's sub-commanders, General Moosa, and the cache belonged to Moosa.

"Malick and Moosa are of equal rank under Ali," Jim explained. "But Malick was trying to usurp Moosa and he was setting us up to start a fight with Moosa's men, and that way get Moosa on the wrong side of the Americans. It almost worked. If Deke hadn't spotted the Afghani flag."

The ODA took control of the cache; Moosa was a commander under Ali who, in his own right, was being funded under the table by the U.S. to the tune, the rumor was, of \$50,000.00 U.S. cash each month.

But Moosa's army had no need for the hundreds of tons of munitions in the caves. There was so much, in fact, that the few cases of C-4 that the ODA always kept on hand for oddsand-ends usage, such as demolishing tiny caches or blowing entry into compounds, wouldn't begin to destroy this moth-

Continued on page 66

# Bashdad



# The Rakkasans Of The 101st Swing Into Nation-Building

# TEXT & PHOTOS BY J.S. MOSBY

aking Baghdad was only one battle. A much more lengthy "fight" ensues as the 3/187th Rakkasans attempts not only to secure the city — but to save their sector from out and out anarchy and to establish and solidify local security, civil government and essential services.

# Fix The Kasbah; Rakkasan Rebuilds

The commanders' meeting that evening looked like all the others, company COs and key battalion staff with Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Fetterman presiding. As I sat on my wire frame/MRE box bed I had "borrowed" from a former Iraqi Republican Guard position, I listened to the day's laundry list of things done and things to do. I had been doing this for some time and the meetings were a bit routine by then so the western dime novel I was reading held much of my attention. But as the speakers went through their reports this evening it fully dawned that the war was over for real and nation building had begun.

Have a seat and ponder your sins, pal. A 101st prisoner awaits interrogation. (opposite) 101st gunner keeps his 5.56mm M249 SAW ready for unwelcome visitors.





I sat up on the bunk, suddenly engaged as the company officers ran through their outfit's "To do" lists. It was impressive; another meeting with the owner of the trash-hauling outfit, Delta Company recovered three more of his trucks, the Army tanker with fuel had arrived, trash workers paid on the spot from company funds, a family of squatters in a nearby compound hired as night watchmen, recruitment of interpreters was proceeding well, three sewer-line breaks identified, Engineers in route, all electrical transfer stations had been identified and assessed, same for telephones, squads had been posted to the local gas stations for security, all clinics had been visited, assessed and NGOs reported to.

It went on; employment office for local professionals to run everything established, lines around the corner, wrecked vehicles located, clearance to begin in 48 hrs., local police station restaffed and armed, Poole's tanks could go home, local bank secured by local police, money returned, informers continued to roll-in and multiple arrests conducted daily, everything from Ba'ath Party guys to local gang members. Kudos to A Company; saved two children from a house fire; locals ecstatic. It was very obvious that light-infantry ops had largely come to an end except for security patrols, Nation-Building had begun in earnest.

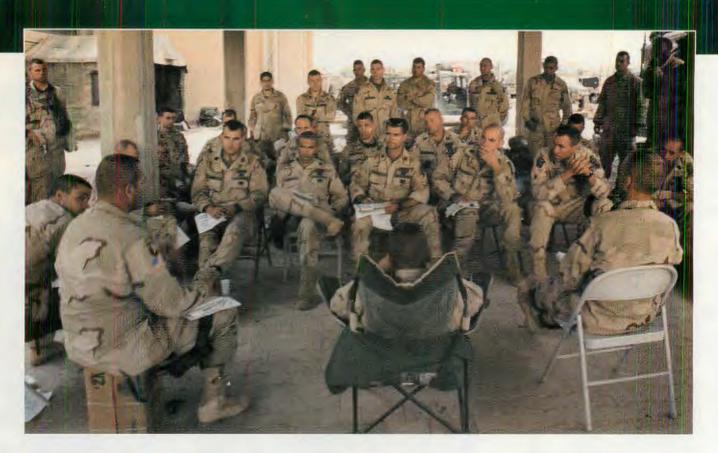
Through it all, Lt. Col. Fetterman nodded, handed out

some "well dones," asked a few questions and imparted some guidance here and there. His style of hands-off leadership was shining through as companies began competing with each other to see who could get the most done.

"We're a light-infantry battalion, so this kind of stuff isn't exactly in our job description," Captain John Bryan told me when the meeting broke up. "We're not Brown and Root, but give us a clear mission statement, some clear points to measure success and we'll do it. We're a bunch of smart hardworking guys and we did this in Afghanistan so we know the ropes." Indeed, working with locals and sorting things out on the spot quickly became a hallmark of the Rakkasans.

A good example of curbside civil affairs was witnessed one day on the way back from a clinic mission led by Captain Mike Owens, of Jeffersonville, Ohio. Driving through a side street on the way back to the CP, a group of Iraqis flaggeddown our Humvee. Clearly agitated, they informed our interpreter that a group of unknown people were setting up some sort of base camp in an empty lot nearby and, oh my god, they had guns. It was nearing the end of a long day, but Owens instructed his driver to hang a left and check it out. The Iraqis were visibly relieved.

About a block away a group of people was milling around in a vacant lot. We pulled up and walked over to them.





Through the interpreter, Owen asked them what they were doing as the rest of us kept watch for anything suspicious. "Good afternoon," Owens said. "Uh, what's going on?" Turns out they were a small band of government workers whose homes had been torched during the looting and they had been living on a bus for three weeks. They spotted the lot and decided to set up a camp until things stabilized. Fair enough. "Look," Owens replied. "You need to go over and introduce yourselves to your neighbors. They don't know who you are and they're all upset. Have a nice day and let us know if we can do anything for you." It was as simple as that. The band's leader slapped his forehead and said something to the effect of "Oh yeah, you're right, we should have done that first. We'll get right over there, in fact I think I have a cousin or something that lives around here."

It was a simple matter, but it could have just as easily degenerated into a major misunderstanding in a city awash in AK-47s. Owens averted that scenario with a two-minute pit stop and a bit of common sense, neighborly advice. He is known for this sort of on the spot fix as are the other officers in Fetterman's command. "It's mostly common sense and a Lt. Col. Fetterman (seated above, middle) receives a briefback from a section of his command. He provides guidance — not micro-management, and gets positive results. (left) The recent 101st airborne's reenlistment ceremony was obviously wellattended as numerous troops restated their oath of enlistment.

head for people," he said on the way back to the CP for some much-deserved rest. It's also the mark of a good battalion CO who picks the right people, provides guidance rather than micromanagement, is quick to take them up on their initiatives and works brigade non stop to round up the support they need.

# **Baghdad Beat Cop**

When the Pentagon formally declared active hostilities at an end in Iraq in late May, it was in essence only the government officiating a situation that had already existed. By the time the Ts were crossed and the Is were dotted, 3/187th Rakassans of the 101st Airborne were already well on their way with their new mission; Nation-Building. The situation in Iraq was, however, far from idyllic. While not as bad as mainstream media made it out to be, it quickly became apparent that the country was due for a major overhaul and security was the first task 3/187th had to address.

There was a great deal of outcry from both the NGOs and the mainstream media regarding the situation with looting. The situation did indeed warrant concern, but the borderline hysteria that surrounded events in immediate post-war Baghdad was grossly exaggerated. To be sure, there was a great deal of it during the first two weeks, especially at presidential sites where impoverished Iraqis cashed-in on 30 years of misrule. It presented a fascinating sight to watch them load up mountains of faux Louis the 14th furniture onto dilapidated Nissan pickups, laughing and thanking George Bush repeatedly. United States troops wisely stayed out of everyone's way during this period and only attempted to guard critical sites such as hospitals and the Ministry of Oil.

This brought howls of accusations from the world press who seemed to feel that the national museum was of greater importance. They failed to take into account that the national museum was not going to be the prime economic engine that would rebuild the country. In any event, they eventually did find the museum, minus missing numerous pieces, then stashed vaults and apartments all over the city. The director and staff had wisely decided to stash the goods, a great deal of it in their apartments, rather than risk bomb strikes. A good plan, but when they failed to inform coalition authorities of this, it caused international angst. It was only later, when pressed by Army CIC (Criminal Investigation Department) personnel, did they reveal the whereabouts of the artifacts.

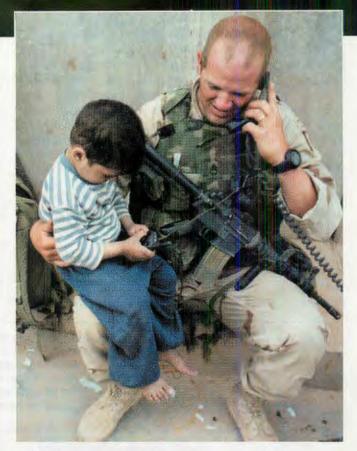
In any event, once the main presidential sites and government industrial parks had been picked clean, this type of problem fell away to nothing despite media reports to the contrary that persisted for weeks. In the area where the 3/187th was active, major looting ceased almost within the first week of occupation. This was in no small measure thanks to a commander's intent directive from brigade. When Colonel Fetterman received orders to reestablish police presence, he simply did it. While the Coalition Provisional Administration hadn't even arrived in country to anguish over uniforms and who was who, in the 187th's sector former police were told to suit-up and report for duty, the particulars would be left for later. This move alone freed-up a full tank platoon from 7th Cav who had been guarding a local bank. The answer was simple: Do it now and sort it out as you go. As Fetterman told me, he had a clear commander's intent to facilitate local security and he did just that.

# **Repo Men Of South Baghdad**

Another pressing issue was the local sanitation situation. Baghdad had not been a particularly clean city to begin with but within a matter of days the mess started piling up like a New York garbage collectors' strike. With the water supply not yet 100% and the blazing heat of summer just starting in, it was imperative that things get rolling and fast. Already, clouds of flies were starting to hatch. Orders came down to reestablish the service by whatever means.

Word had been put out that all professionals and service people should make themselves known and it didn't take long for the owner of the local garbage concession to arrive. Like much of Baghdad, his situation was in disarray. Most of his trash trucks had been looted and fuel was in short supply. At a meeting with battalion officers he outlined his situation; one truck, willing workers and no diesel. When asked what he needed to get things rolling he replied, "10,000 liters of fuel and my trucks." Over the next few days, the battalion's Delta Company, with it's armored Humvees became defacto repo-men. It's rather difficult to hide a garbage truck and when Delta would arrive, sprouting a wide variety of heavy weapons, truck after truck began to reappear. They encountered no arguments.

A suitable compound was then secured as a staging area and a local family who were squatting on the grounds were hired on the spot as watchmen for \$70.00 a month (a fortune in Baghdad). In short order the trash man had the majority of



Nation-Building begins with winning hearts and minds. Here, a 101st NCO radios in while entertaining a young Iraqi.

his pre-war fleet back, save a couple that had apparently been commandeered by Fedayeen militia and turned into scrap by A-10s and Abrams fire. Soon, a Hemmet tanker showed up with the needed fuel, from the Army's own stocks. Attached for the initial clean up effort was also a section of engineer dozers to pile up the biggest heaps. As soon as salaries were negotiated, paid for from Army funds, a very happy group of garbage men saddled-up and the streets began to clear. It was yet another example of GIs identifying a problem and plunging in, paperwork or protocol be damned.

### **Reinventing The Wheel**

Numerous projects were identified and dealt with in this way. Aside from the mumbled references about, "We're a light-infantry battalion, this isn't our job ..." the men went to work with a will and appeared to enjoy helping the people as much as they could. The biggest complaints were reserved for the NGOs and the Provisional Authority for its sloth like response to the situation. As one officer remarked, "Why do we always have to reinvent the wheel? We just did this same job in Afghanistan for the better part of a year. You'd think they would have planned for this."

Indeed, despite the overwhelming military preparations, it seemed no one in Washington or elsewhere had planned for a nation-building mission of such scale. Infrastructure specialists were almost nonexistent, leaving infantry officers to sort through the intricacies of power substations and telephone exchanges. The power plants, for example, were so old that retired German engineers had to first be located and then flown into the country to assess what would be

Continued on page 70

efore you roll your eyes at yet another inexperienced liberal who predicts doom for U.S. interests in Iraq based upon what happened in Southeast Asia some twenty-eight years ago, let me show you my credentials. I was a U.S. Special Forces medical specialist in Viet Nam and Thailand from 1967 through 1971, and I

spent time on the ground in border camps, reaction forces, and classified projects. I came to know the war up-close, and devoured all the information that I could about the tactics of the enemy, as well as those that we used to fight it. I now am part of the United States Army's effort in Baghdad, serving on a Civil Affairs team, traveling the mean streets of Baghdad every day, and getting to know the Iraqis. My unit came into Baghdad before the smoke had cleared, and remains engaged.

# **Invasion To Guerrilla Conflict**

Those of us on the ground here are seeing how this war is evolving. It has turned from a slam-bang invasion and occupation to a guerrilla conflict. With all due respect to the Secretary of Defense and the National Command Authority, the coordinated attacks on us are not the work of lunatics released in the final days of Saddam's regime, or average Iraqis who are incensed by the lack of reliable power and water. They are the result of a directed and planned guerrilla conflict that is only entering its first phase.

This guerrilla conflict is likely a continuation of the war that our Administration has presided over; the logical extension of a war plan by a dictator who knew that he could not win a stand-up fight, and did not try to wage one. He chose instead to fight a delaying action, to give his key personnel time to go into hiding, to tidy up any evidence of weapons of mass destruction, and to move tons of cash and gold to places where he could draw upon them.

When the Coalition forces advanced into Iraq, they met resistance, some of it fierce, at certain points. A few towns, some bridges and other points were contested, but the large formations that were at the regime's orders did not materialize to fight on the battlefield. Certainly, many of the

SF operator scopes-out, then fires at several targets inside Iraq, north of Baghdad. His ritle is a M107 Barrett (Barrett 82A2) .50 BMG caliber, semi-automatic, anti-materiel/personnel sniper rifle, with a Leupold 16 X 50mm .50 BMG sniper scope.. Adjustment turret covers have been removed. enemy's forces were destroyed by our own firepower, by the precision-bombing and the gutsy, aggressive maneuvering of our forces. But tens of thousands of enemy troops, and their weapons, simply faded away. Vanished. They were not killed and not interred in POW camps for transition back into society; they just went away. The large enemy combat formations that we expected to fight, that our intelligence had plotted to within 100 meters, evaporated.

Now we are seeing them reconstitute, like water that has evaporated

BY RALPH JOHNSON

# The "Vietnamization" of Iraq

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from the desert, forming storm clouds.

Some of these former Iraqi Army men have shown up at the gates of the U.S. compound in recent days, demanding back pay as soldiers. While, on the face of it, it seems ridiculous for a defeated army to demand to be paid by the victors, there were those leaflets dropped by Coalition forces that urged the Iraqi Army troops to drop their weapons and go home, stating that they would be taken care of.

The troops at our gates are nowhere near the number that disappeared. They are maybe enough to make up a battalion, a few hundred men, but not the divisions that Saddam had poised to resist us.

So, where did these guys go? Thousands of men are hard to hide. We surely should have had thousands of them as homeless displaced persons after they laid down their arms which would have constituted a humanitarian emergency, compelling us to act.

I am in Civil Affairs, the unit that should have cared for them. We did not see them. It's as if there was some plan for them to go to ground and reemerge on order. I believe that there was such a plan.

We see some of them sometimes, as we ride through Baghdad on our missions. The fit young men of military age, with short hair and sullen expressions. The elite units of Saddam's army, especially the Republican Guard and Special Republican Guard, were living lavish lifestyles until the invasion, and they aren't happy. They are now jobless, with nothing to lose and, therefore, looking at an occupation army living in the palaces that they used to occupy.

# Iraq Compared To Viet Nam

So how do I justify the comparison to Viet Nam? How are these two conflicts similar, and what can we learn from the last one that will help us in this one?

First, the populace must support the guerrillas. Mao knew that the population is the ocean in which the guerrilla fish must swim, and the current guerrilla leadership in Iraq is hoping to gain the loyalty of the populace by turning them away from the Americans and British.

One suspected tactic the guerrilla leadership may have used as a catalyst for this turnabout was directing some of the looting which broke out even before the smoke cleared. Or, the Gs may simply

have been exceedingly lucky. Looters hit the power, water, and sewage plants, ripping out vital machinery and even the wiring in the walls. The thorough looting guaranteed that essential services, such as power and water, could not function in Baghdad and beyond. In a city where temperatures are going above 120 F, this means no fans, no air conditioning, no refrigeration, no lights, and no water. Even the most sophisticated parent will curse the Coalition forces for not doing something to restore services, when his thirsty children are crying and baking in a desert home with no cooling.

The Bad Guys are also ensuring that this pot continues to boil by sabotaging and attacking the power grid and water lines once they have been repaired. The average Iraqi holds the U.S. responsible, as we are the ones with the tanks, trucks, and engineers — who should be able to fix things. It is interesting to me that I have heard from two different Iraqis that, after the first Iraq War, Saddam himself was able to fix the damage and have water and power back on-line in less time than it is taking the Coalition working together.

The message is clear: "Are you *really* better off after the invasion? What good is this freedom without water or electricity? The Americans lied when they told you things will be better." The guerrillas are conducting their own campaign to win hearts and minds.

The guerrillas are also ensuring that the cash the Coalition needs to rebuild Iraq will not be forthcoming any time soon. Oil money is vital to reconstruction here, as the U.S. cannot, on its own, finance every needed project. As soon as an oil pipeline is opened, it is blown-up, requiring

more money for repair, while potential revenue spills into the sand..

The second thing necessary for a guerrilla war to succeed is a border with a neighboring country friendly to the guerrillas. In Iraq, you can take your pick. The Islamic militants in the south are directly connected to their Shi'ite brothers and their mullahs in Iran. The Iranian leaders, feeling threatened and surrounded by the U.S. in Afghanistan and Iraq, enjoy the opportunity to strike at Americans and Brits through proxy forces. There is feeling here that the recent murders of six British military policemen by Shi'ite townsmen have the mark of Iran on them.

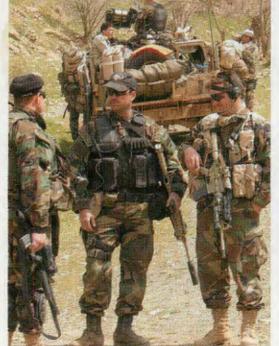
Syria has not been reluctant to take in remnants of Saddam's regime. Three semi-truckloads of cash, and three gold-laden garbage trucks (see page 36) have been seized by U.S. forces on their way to the Syrian border. They were surely on their way to support Ba'athist regime remnants in their efforts to rebuild and return.

There are reports that Saddam's WMD crossed from Iraq into Syria, and then into the fortified and terrorist-occupied Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. Militants on their way into Iraq from Syria are stopped or

engaged in combat almost daily by Coalition forces.

Saudi Arabia would like us to accept their protestations of friendship, although the country continues to support radical Islamist movements spawned by the Wahabi sect, based there. It is certain that guerrillas fighting the Coalition could find welcome in many places along a porous and poorly defined Saudi border, and that the Coalition would be loathe to strike sanctuaries along that border

The next thing on our guerrilla checklist is a cause that



Special Forces operators conduct a meeting of the minds. Quoting from our fyeoexpress@strategyworld.com e-mail of 10 Oct 03: "There is a little bit of the Vietnam war showing up in Iraq, in the form of Iraqi militias and security forces being trained by American troops. ... Although Iraq is a very different situation, the idea of recruiting and training locals to defend themselves is the same. ... there are nearly 100,000 new police, troops and ICDC [Iraq Civil Defense Corps] at work, with another hundred thousand on the way. ... "

will compel young men to take up arms, and continue in the guerrilla cause in the face of fierce odds. When a guerrilla is isolated, hunted, and sees his comrades die, he must be motivated to continue the struggle instead of going home. This may be where the current Iraqi guerrilla leadership is vulnerable, but not for long.

Intelligence reports persist of men being hired by regime loyalists who pay cash for people to kill Americans. Reliable sources tell of a U.S. \$1,500 "signing bonus" for Iraqis to sign-up for the Saddam Fedayeen. The motivation may be cash for now, but the GIs that are killed are just as dead as if they were killed for a cause. As time goes by, even if mercenaries and zealots are initially responsible for deaths of Coalition soldiers, these deaths cause our troops to become harsher in dealing with Iraqis, meaning more checkpoints, more home invasions, more bystanders wounded or roughed- up. Couple these measures with the lack of power, water, and basic services, and you have a recipe for a cause. That cause is to force the invaders to leave. Iraq for the Iraqis.

In Viet Nam, the United States attempted, for the most part, to fight the guerrillas with conventional units. There were some innovations, like the use of helicopters and riverine forces, but while American infantry, artillery and armor flooded the small country, coincidentally, like Iraq, the size of California, the guerrillas enjoyed freedom of movement, the ability to choose the time and place of battle, and inflicted casualties on American troops that ensured that political action would negate American gains on the battlefield. It was only when larger North Vietnamese Army formations joined the battle that U.S. conventional units showed their strength, shredding their enemy every time. The North Vietnamese, however, had made the strategic decision to absorb the losses that it took to bleed the Americans enough to make them leave.

A final item for comparison to the Viet Nam War is the mobilization of the American public and media to oppose the war effort. This involves what Lenin referred to as "useful idiots;" those in academia, the press, or elsewhere, who could be depended on to back the position of the Soviet Union over the United States on any given issue. While the supporters of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese were few in the early '60s, by the end of the decade organizers could muster thousands of activists to take to the streets seemingly overnight. Domestic opposition to the war drove one president from office, and convinced Congress to withdraw support for the Republic of South Viet Nam, assuring the Communist victory.

# A Coming Vaccuum?

The domestic opposition to the Iraq War started even before hostilities began.

The usual suspects of the American far left were vastly outnumbered by the majority of the American public, who

supported the pro-active use of force following the 9-11 disasters. As the casualty lists lengthen, as Iraqis organize to oppose U.S. occupation, as there seems to be no end in sight, the American public will turn against the war, and the antiwar movement will once again be a force in American politics. This, of course, will be followed by an American pullout, a vacuum in Iraq, and a bloodbath as scores are settled.

Clearly, there must be a plan to get ahead of the guerrillas; to defeat them militarily, while maintaining the loyalty of the populace, and keeping troublemakers out.

The developing guerrilla war in Iraq requires an effective counter-guerrilla force. For the United States, this means deploying a Special Forces Group. The force in Viet Nam that proved a force-multiplier, provided some 80% of all usable intelligence, and firmly secured its areas of operation, was the U.S. Special Forces, specifically the 5th Group. The 5th Group trained Civilian Irregular Defense Groups [later called Camp Strike Forces (CSF)], which served in a counter-guerrilla role, securing borders and troubled internal areas.

The Special Operations Group [SOG; earlier, Studies and Observation Group] sent teams to interdict the enemy's supply and infiltration routes across the borders, and struck at targets of high value, such as general officers, ammunition dumps, or armored convoys.

Once the SF Group is deployed, one battalion needs to urgently recreate and deploy the Iraqi Army, under U.S. officers and NCOs in critical leadership positions. The Iraqi Army, knowing the terrain and culture, would gradually become the premier force to fight the guerrillas.

The second SF battalion should become the border force, patrolling from their fortified camps with the aid

Continued on page 80



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Entries can be on any subject, and will be judged for action, artistic properties, human interest, technical merit or a combination thereof. Decisions of the judges are final.

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the basic who/what/when/where of what's in the photo. All submissions must have the name and address of photographer (*preferably on the item*) to be returned, and all winning photos, except as noted below, become the property of *SOF* magazine. We can accept prints, slides or digital images on CD (please *do not* write on the back of prints with ballpoint pens).

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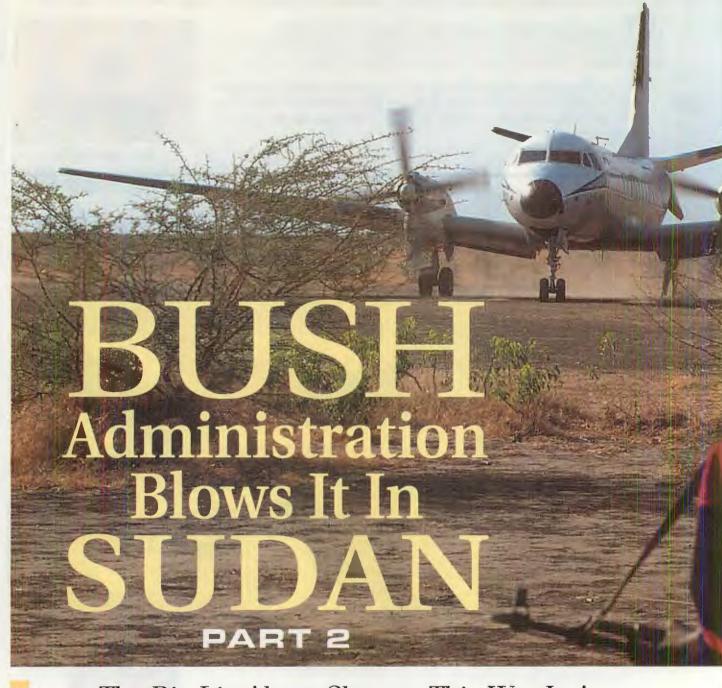


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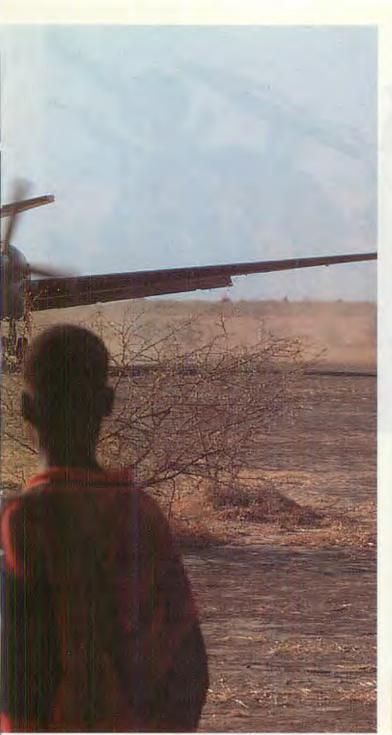


# The Big Lie About Slavery; This War Is A Jihad/Holy War; And It Can Be Won Militarily

# BY JOHN LOFTON

PHOTOS COURTESY PERSECUTION PROJECT FOUNDATION

Last month, in Part I of this article, the government of Sudan's role in terrorism was documented in detail, their lack of "good faith" was exposed, foreign oil companies fueling this conflict were named and the pathetic performance of the State Department's Assistant Secretary For African Affairs, Walter Kansteiner, was highlighted.



nother example of the government of Sudan not acting in "good faith" is their constant lying about slavery in Sudan. On Sudan's Washington, D.C. Embassy web page their Ambassador to the U. S., Khidir Haroun Ahmad says, in capital letters: "THERE IS NO SLAVERY IN SUDAN Period." There is, however, he admits, something called "inter-tribal abduction" that is illegal, immoral, blah, blah, blah. But, on the issue of slavery, if Ambassador Ahmad was Pinocchio, his nose would be roughly the size of the Washington Monument.

Ambassador Ahmad's lie about slavery in Sudan is so big, and so demonstrably false, that one almost doesn't know where to start in refuting it. But, let's begin at least over 600 years ago. In his book *Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black*  Diaspora (Farrar, Straus, Giroux; 2001), Ronald Segal, the first white member of the African National Congress, says, writing about the mid-14th century: "Many of the black slaves exported from the central Sudan were destined for military service in North Africa. The trade also supplied ... female slaves for sale as concubines ... The trade supplied many other slaves for more menial purposes ... Slaves were also procured ... for central Sudanic rulers who sought them as a source of prestige and a demonstration of wealth, for employment in retinues, or as laborers with or without special skills."

Reporting on the situation in Sudan in early 1883, Segal says: "The slave trade thrived. Great numbers of captives, taken in the course of raiding or warfare, were sold to dealers for export, especially to Arabia. The onetime British consul in Jedda, A.B. Wylde, reported in 1887 that slaves males, including eunuchs, and females alike — had never been so cheap or so numerous in the area of the Red Sea."

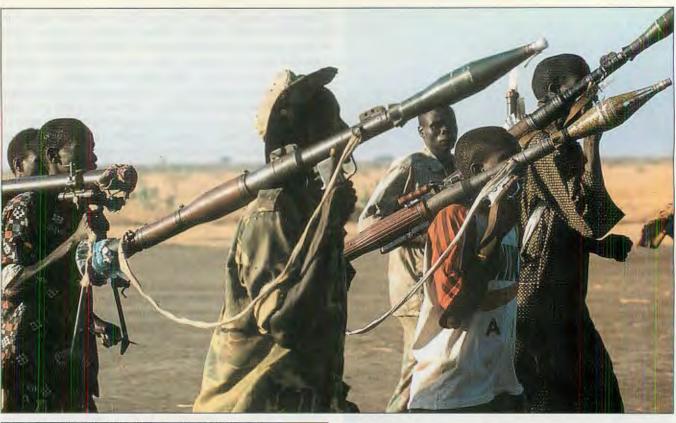
Commenting on the Sudan civil war over most of the past 40 years or so, Segal says: "It has led to a resurgence in slavery and the slave trade." This has happened despite Sudan being a signatory of the 1926 Slavery Convention as amended in 1953 which required Sudan to abolish slavery in all its forms.

In her book The Decline Of Eastern Christianity Under Islam (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press; 1996), Bat Ye'or notes that in two reports (1993, 1994) submitted to the UN Commission On Human Rights, Special Rapporteur for the Sudan, Gaspar Biro, "stressed that children — mainly from ethnic or religious minorities — living in insecurity in conflict zones are exposed to abduction and sale. Coming mostly from Christian or animist families, these children — he estimates in the hundreds of thousands — are rounded up every three months from the streets of Khartoum and major towns of northern Sudan, the victims of displaced families from the south and the Nuba Mountain area" (emphasis mine).

In a chapter titled "From Mission To Church In An Islamizing State: The Case Of Sudan 1946-1964," in the book Christian Missionaries & The State In The Third World (Ohio University Press; 2002), Andrew Wheeler, an Anglican clergyman, writes: "Mission activity in Khartoum (from 1848) centered on the redemption and education of slaves, espe-

A British-made Andover cargo plane touches down, laden with food and medical equipment, in SPLA-held territory. (below) Girl warriors, brandishing AKs, ready to pop caps on Sudanese government oppressors.







cially children. Several hundred received education at the mission school in Khartoum and many were also brought to Europe for education and rehabilitation."

In her book Islamic Society In Practice (University Press of Florida; 1994), Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, a professor of anthropology at Rhode Island College, says that in Sudan, though officially abolished, "the slave status of persons remained a viable category well into the second half of the century." She says she recalls vividly how shocked she was "when a local district commissioner in southern Kordofan in 1971 presented to my husband and me an individual who was described as a slave among the Baggara people. Sadly this recollection took on new meaning when Sudanese social scientists reported that slavery was revived among the Baggara and neighboring Rizeigat and Messiriya Arabs in the context of armed militia raids against southerners in the renewed civil war after 1983."

In 1999, UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said

.40 mm type 69 anti-tank grenade launchers (copies of Soviet RPG-7s) carried by SPLA troops. (left) Rocket launcher quietly awaits next battle.

there was "irrefutable evidence of an established and ongoing slave trade in Sudan." And in a press release dated 6 April 2002, Anti-Slavery International (ASI), the world's oldest international human rights organization, called on Sudan President Omar al-Bashir to take action to end the pattern of abductions and slavery that exists in Sudan. When ASI Director Mike Dottridge and an Algerian human rights lawyer visited Khartoum and parts of South Darfur in Western Sudan in October of 2002, they found "that abductions had been continuing unabated for 15 years. This has resulted in thousands of cases of enslavement and slaveryrelated violations."

## "This Is Not A Religious War!"

Yet one more absurd Big Lie by the government of Sudan, demonstrating another example of a lack of "good faith," is the assertion that their genocidal war against the southern part of their country has nothing to do with religion. In an interview, Abdel bagi Kabeir, deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of Sudan in Washington, D.C., is emphatic. He tells me categorically: "This is *not* a religious war!" To prove this, he quotes from Sudan's 1998 Constitution which says, in part, that Sudan is a place where "religions conciliate" and "every human being shall have the right of freedom of conscience and religious creed ... and no one shall be coerced to adopt such a faith, as he does not believe in, nor to practice rites or services he does not voluntarily consent to."

Someone, however, has forgotten to call this part of Sudan's Constitution to the attention of Sudan's top government officials. The publication "Africa Confidential" quotes President Bashir as saying on 18 June 2003, to the Popular Organization For Defending The Faith And Homeland: "We want a banner that says this war by the south is against *sharia* (Islamic law) and we will come out for jihad (holy war) so that I can cleanse the misdeeds I committed in this life against myself and others and meet my God as a martyr."

On 5 September 2002, the Reuters news agency quotes President Bashir as telling hundreds of supporters in Khartoum: "The jihad process will continue until peace, security, and stability is achieved. On 17 November 2002, the Associated Press quotes Bashir: "This government will never relinquish Islamic law, and Khartoum will never be secular." And the Agence France Presse (AFP) quotes Beshir as telling 250 university students that his government "will not earn Allah's wrath to please America and will not let the banner of Islam fall down." He adds: "The Sudan has sacrificed too many lives to abandon its Islamic orientation and to relinquish the jihad just to earn the satisfaction of others."

"Africa Confidential" also quotes Sudan's Vice President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha as saying, on 6 August 2001: "Anyone who believes the government will accept peace that dilutes Islam is deluded." The 11 June 2002 *Jerusalem Post* quotes Taha as saying, three weeks after the terrorist attacks against America on 9/11/01: "The jihad is our way and we will not abandon it and will keep its banner high." The AFP on 4 October 2001 quotes Taha as saying: "We will never sell out our faith and will never betray the oath to our martyrs."



I don't know about you, but this sounds very much like a religious war to me. And there's much more evidence to prove that the war in Sudan is a religious war — specifically a war by the radical Islamist government in the north against Christians and other non-Muslims throughout all of Sudan.

In my previously mentioned interview with Abdel bagi Kabeir, deputy chief of mission at the Sudan Embassy in Washington, D.C., he told me that though the war in Sudan is "not a religious war," it is true that "Islam has been in Sudan since the 15th century." He adds: "You cannot divide people along religious lines." But, to say that Islam has simply existed in Sudan for more than 600 years is much too passive a description and very misleading. Islam is a dynamic and aggressive religion. And to reject dividing people according to religion is to reject Islam.

In his book *The Political Language Of Islam* (University of Chicago; 1988), the well-known historian of Islam, Bernard Lewis, says, regarding Muslim teaching about jihad/Holy War: "The basis of the obligation of jihad is the universality of the Muslim revelation. God's word and God's message are

for all mankind; it is the duty of those who have accepted them to strive unceasingly to convert or at least subjugate those who have not. This obligation is without limit of time or space. It must continue until the whole world has either accepted the Islamic faith or submitted to the power of the Islamic state (emphasis mine).

"Until that happens, the world is divided into two: the House of Islam (*dar al-Islam*), where Muslims rule and the law of Islam prevails; and the House of War (*dar al-Harb*), comprising the rest of the world. Between the two there is a morally necessary, legally and religiously obligatory state of war, until the final and inevitable triumph of Islam over unbelief" (emphasis mine).

Then Lewis says something extremely important, something that is, obviously, not understood by President Bush, his State Department and all those who believe the war in Sudan can be ended by a "peace agreement." He writes, regarding this state of war between Islam and all those who



are not Muslim: "According to [their] law books, this state of war could be interrupted, when expedient, by an armistice or truce of limited duration. It could not be terminated by a peace, but only by final victory" (emphasis mine).

Now, read, again, please, the previously quoted remarks about jihad by Sudan's President Bashir and the National Islamic Front's Hassan

Brad Phillips, Persecution Project Foundation's president (above and left), treats WIAs from recent contact.

al-Turabi. What they say is precisely what Lewis says Islam teaches.

And they are not the only Islamists in Sudan who have believed in jihad and sharia (Islamic law) to forcibly spread Islam. In his book *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?* (Oxford; 1999), John L.

Esposito, notes that on 8 September 1983, in Sudan, Gaafar Muhammad Nimeiri, who came to power in a military coup in 1969, declared an "Islamic revolution" that would impact politics, law, and society. He says: "Nimeiri's 'Islamic' laws marked the formal institutionalization of Sudan's Islamic path. Traditional Islamic legal punishments such as flogging for alcohol consumption, amputation for theft, and death for apostasy were implemented."

In his book Sharia: The Islamic Law (Ta Ha Publishers; 1984), Abdur Rahman I. Doi, a former editor-in-chief of the Nigerian Journal Of Islam, says: "The punishment by death in the case of apostasy has been unanimously agreed upon by all the four schools of Islamic jurisprudence." He defines apostasy (Al-Riddah) as meaning "rejection of the religion of Islam in favor of any other religion either through an action or through words of mouth ... Similarly the rejection of the belief in the Koran as the Book of Allah or the belief of the message contained in it ...The rejection of the obligatory rit-

# Continued on page 64

# **Bush Blows It In Sudan**

# Continued from page 63

ual practices ... Likewise, if one imitates the practices of non-Muslims in their prayers, etc. It will be considered an act of apostasy."

In her book In The Lion's Den: A Shocking Account of Persecution And Martyrdom Of Christians Today & How We Should Respond (Broadman & Holman; 1997), Nina Shea, who today is director of the Center For Religious Freedom, reports that in Sudan, in May of 1995, "soldiers in uniform summarily executed twelve men, women and children at Lobonok for refusing to convert to Islam ... In August 1995, five Nuban women were sentenced to death for apostasy or abandoning Islam."

In their book By Their Blood: Christian Martyrs Of The 20th Century (Baker Book House; 1988), James and Mart Hefley tell how, in 1881, the "Muslim fanatic" Muhammed Ahmad led a revolt of dervishes who, among other atrocities, slit the throat of an Austrian tailor in front of his wife because he was "making the sign of the cross."

In his book *Warriors Of The Prophet: The Struggle For Islam* (Westview Press; 1999), Mark Hubbard quotes Baha al-Din Hnafi, director of Sudan President Bashir's political department, as saying: "I think Sudan is an Islamic model. The West will never find a better Islamic model with which to conduct a dialogue ... the West will never find a more rational political Islam than in Sudan."

In testimony before the House Africa Subcommittee (5/13/03), the Department's Walter State H. Kansteiner III reported "substantial progress" towards a "lasting peace" in Sudan. He said he was "under no illusions" regarding the challenges ahead. And what might be some "substantial achievements" to date? Well, the "security issue" remains "very difficult," he said. "That's one we're really going to have to work on in these next six weeks." The "security issue" is, of course, the war!

When asked about what started this Holy War — the government of Sudan's attempt to force Islamic law (sharia) on those who don't want it — Kansteiner said this was "one of the last nitty-gritty issues" but "an agreement" had been reached on "religious liberties" for the South. The question of whether sharia would be imposed on the 2,000,000 non-Muslims in Khartoum, however, was still a question "on the table."

But, Kansteiner *is* under an illusion and, sad to say, President Bush seems to share this illusion. And the pernicious and dangerous illusion they are under is the notion that "peace" in the Sudan can be achieved by signing a piece of paper with radical, genocidal, Islamist terrorists who have already broken every agreement they have signed.

The jihad/Holy War in Sudan with more than 2,000,000 people dead — has been a bloodbath which Ken Isaacs, International Director of Projects, Samaritan's Purse, notes is the equivalent of one World Trade Center attack every week for 13 years. And whether there's a "peace treaty" or the war resumes, President Bush and his State Department have, up to now, blown it. They should have sought a victory over the government of Sudan by supplying those fighting this government with whatever military equipment they needed.

In a speech to the Heritage Foundation on 22 November 02, Kansteiner said, however, that "both sides realize that neither can win militarily." But, once again, Kansteiner is wrong. In an interview, Steven Wondu, U.S. representative of the good guys, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), says, yes, that with military aid his forces could achieve "regime change" in the north among those who otherwise "have not changed, they cannot change and will never change." He says that with such aid, the north could have been defeated "a long time ago."

Deng Leek, Secretary Of Planning And Development for the SPLM agrees. He tells me: "Oh, yeah, definitely, 100 percent, absolutely" they could have defeated the north if given the necessary military hardware. He adds: "We're defeating them now with most of our weapons captured from them ... the only way is to defeat them militarily ... Efforts to get a peace treaty have been a waste of time." Heavy armainents have been supplied to the government of Sudan by: Iraq; Iran (battle tanks); and Russia (armored combat vehicles, howitzers, mortars, Mig-29s and Mi-24s).

James A. Phillips, Research Fellow in Middle Eastern Studies at the Heritage Foundation, says: "By shortchanging the Sudanese opposition's need for external military aid, an evenhanded policy focused on achieving a diplomatic settlement plays into the hands of Sudan's dictator, Omar al-Bashir. The problem is not just ending the civil war but ending the Sudanese government's genocidal policies, and it is not likely that this can be accomplished without a change of regime."

# If Liberia, Why Not Sudan?

In his book Sword Of Islam: Muslim Extremism From Arab Conquests To The Attack On America (Prometheus Books; 2002), John J. Murphy, Jr. also advocates militarily aiding the freedom fighters in southern Sudan: "[This] would bolster the governments of Kenya and Tanzania in the face of renewed terrorism such as they faced in 1998 with the bombings of the U.S. embassies. Indeed, it is time that we began to realize the importance of this region of East Africa in our war against militant Islam because, like it or not, we are at war ---if we did not declare it, Osama bin Laden certainly has."

Well, amen! And at least one U.S. Congressman is ready to support such military aid. In an interview, Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.) — noting the Bush Administration's focus on Liberia says: "If you're going to start listing the countries where we have a moral obligation to intervene, what happened to Sudan? The situation in Liberia is horrible. But, the horrible situation in Sudan has been going on for at least 30 years!"

Noting that he trusts "nothing the State Department tells me, *nothing*," Tancredo says "absolutely," that if peace talks fail, as he believes they will, he will propose military aid for the Sudanese freedom fighters and recognition of them as a separate country.

As we go to press, (quoting from AP) "Sudan's government and the country's main rebel group resumed talks Tuesday [7 October] aimed at ending a 20-year civil war. ...

The talks are scheduled to last until October 25th ... "

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For more than 30 years John Lofton has covered national politics and cultural/religious issues as a journalist, nationally syndicated columnist, TV-radio commentator/analyst and political advisor. He can be reached at: E-mail: JLof@aol.com . 🛪 www.downrangesports.com

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# Blowing It Up

# Continued from page 43

er lode. An EOD team from Task Force 180 was brought in and in two days and two massive explosions the cave caches were blown-up in place.

# "Green On Green"

What Malick had done to try and set us against Moosa was an example of a major problem then and still today in Afghanistan. In the military shorthand of the combat zone it's called "green on green." "Green" being the term of Afghan irregular militia forces. "Green on green" is rival warlords, or militia commanders, fighting each other over turf. The fights are usually direct — one guy's militiamen attacking the other guy's. What happened to our team — new to the country, remember, and still somewhat "cherry" — was unique, and ingenious, in that one commander nearly got us unwittingly to do his "Green-on-green" fighting for him.

# **Malik Declared Off-Limits**

The ODA put Malick off-limits. He was told that we would no longer deal with him. Captain Jim asked our own compatriot, locally operating civilian-clothed, Americans, known world-wide for their covert way of doing business, to cut-off any U.S. funding for Malick, if the U.S. was indeed throwing thousands of dollars his way monthly as it was Ali's way.

The word must have gotten out: "This new American team means business." A week later, the third of the three commanders directly below Ali, General Hajji Zahier, invited us to lunch at his ranch. In the course of the afternoon, he declared his allegiance to the United States by bringing us to a separate walled compound on his land and turning over to us the tons and tons of munitions he had stored in the numerous buildings there. Again, the cache contained rocket rounds, mortar rounds, anti-aircraft ammunition, machine-gun ammo, you name it. Again, we brought in EOD and in the course of three days work, with hired laborers, jingle-trucked all the stuff further out to the desert — no small task, with the tremendous size of the cache — and blew it.

One would almost think that General Zahier was one helluva guy, just turning over the munitions to us like that. One must remember, though, that this was Afghanistan. And things are never quite what they at first appear there. In this instance, first, if Zahier was allowing us to take that particular cache, then who knows what other huge caches he had elsewhere that he would never reveal to us? Further, the compound in which the munitions were stored was a huge, palatial living place --- with four separate mansion-type residences - and it was only three-quarters complete. The surrounding wall and its turrets were up and the buildings were all roofed, but none had doors, windows, electricity, water or any finished features. One can never convince me that Zahier's motivations in giving us the munitions were not more selfish than friendly. I believed then, and still do, that he turned over the cache to get someone to clean out the compound so that he could continue with the final stages of construction. It worked, too; it was our money that paid for the laborers, and our efforts that did the work. Then, with the palatial compound cleaned out, the construction that had been postponed years before during the lean Taliban years could now continue, as, since Zahier was the overall commander of the Eastern Corps border security and the Americans had run out the Taliban and had established a reviving economy, the money was again rolling in. From where? I don't know. I guess a succinct explanation would be, "It's Afghanistan."

The caches the ODA captured in the next six months did

ODA 2025 with a contingent of its MRF, SF's modern-day equivalent to the CIDG/CSF of the Vietnam era.







EOD Joe poses with the more than five hundred Chinese 107 rocket rounds rigged for demolition with blocks of C-4.

(right) Author Paul Avallone

not come as easily and cheaply as those first two. Some were huge, some were small. We found a metal detector to be very useful in finding small buried caches. For the big caches, we'd bring in EOD and have them help us with the destruction.

The word spread that we Americans were true to our word that we would pay for information that led us to a cache, and we had no lack of locals trying to collect. Thus, we hit a number of "dry holes." We would not pay for dry holes, but we wouldn't know they were dry until we investigated, and that was a waste of our time and put us at needless risk; in the rural backcountry, IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and ambushes were always a threat.

# Why Afghans Are Still Living In Dirt Huts ...

One particular dry hole is worth forgetting but is illustrative of the Afghan culture. We'd driven three hours then had to foot-hump another two up the mountains to a collapsed cave near the Pakistan border. Supposedly, the cave contained tons of weapons and ammunition left by a retreating rebel commander during the Russian occupation. The cave's entrance had been collapsed so that the Russians could not get the munitions. For four days squads of our MRF and a collection of hired laborers dug and dug and dug. And never made it close to getting inside. In a lesson that anyone who has spent any amount of time in Afghanistan working with the people knows, the MRF and laborers really didn't dig that much. Hard physical labor is not a passion among the Afghans. Whenever our backs were turned, the shovels stopped. Even when are backs weren't turned, most of the



shovel-action up there on that mountainside was more show than actual moving of dirt.

In a final twist, we were paying the laborers what we paid our lowest-rank MRF — five dollars U.S. a day — more than twice the average Afghan wage. In two days the important three-day cultural holiday EID was coming. The laborers gave up the opportunity

to work those two prior days and earn what would be a week's normal pay just because, "EID is coming in two days." Mind you, this was in the rural mountains, and there would most likely be no work for the laborers after EID and who knew when there would be the opportunity to work again. No matter; the money, if it is to be gotten by physical labor, was not worth having those extra two days off. The lesson, simply put: That's why the Afghans are still living in dirt huts with dirt floors.

We called it quits on that mountain. Let the people have their EID, and their two days prior, and let the mountain retain its cache. Luckily for us, all of the other caches, before and after, required little or no digging.

And caches we collected. Arguably, more in number and volume than any of the other SF ODA in the country at the time. And for the few thousands of dollars we paid out for the information that led us to the caches — it was a cheap price to pay to keep from having those munitions turned around and one day used on us. Or, at a future time — whenever that may be — when the U.S. is no longer securing the country, having them used by rival warlords on each other or a by newly reinvigorated Taliban to recapture the country.

Another feature on Special Forces ODA 2025 will appear in next month's SOF.  $\Re$ 

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# **Raising Baghdad**

## Continued from page 47

needed to fix the grid.

Media presence was also noticeably missing. After causing one of the greatest social upheavals in the history of Iraq, it was weeks before even rudimentary TV and radio was on the air to deliver the coalition's messages and counter the pervasive Iranian influence. Even after coalition media did get started, its sophistication was dismal and far outclassed by Iranian TV, which is where most people got their news from with predictable results. It is these kinds of oversights that have set back the coalition's timetable by months and has led to much unrest across an Iraqi populous that persists in thinking that the U.S.A. can somehow wave a magic wand and evolve the country overnight.

Working with NGOs presented another problem in that few, if any, would step down from their hallowed perches to work with the Army. While the grunts ran themselves ragged putting together one assessment after another and physically locating every clinic and food distribution point in their sector, NGOs slammed the door in their face. One Civil Affairs soldier attached to the battalion returned from one such encounter at the famous

Palestine Hotel. "I have been trained to do assessments more than anyone here. We have located every clinic, every mosque and every food warehouse," he spoke with barely concealed rage. He waved a heavy binder bulging with documents and continued, "We have documented what everyone needs to see them through the transition period and what did they tell me? Sorry, we do our own field work and this is a closed door meeting, bye."

At the same time, CNN parad-

ed one aid worker after another through their hotel studio, where many claimed that because of the "security" situation they were remaining in their compounds until further notice. By the end of the third week, it was obvious that the mean, green men with guns weren't going to get one iota of cooperation from these angelic figures. It will probably never be known the full effect of the delays caused by this attitude. "They're complaining about security," Colonel Fetterman remarked after one such snub by the NGO crowd. "It's the one mission we were born to do, but they won't have any of it."

By contrast, the government of Saudi Arabia, to everyone's surprise, had put together a battalion-size field hospital, a huge convoy of aid and had driven three days through the western desert escorted by a reinforced company of Saudi Special Forces. Arriving unannounced in the middle of the night, they set up near the highway, started handing out aid and performing surgeries by 0800 the next day. In a carnival like atmosphere, they hung huge green banners in Arabic and English that proclaimed Saudi Arabia's love (and Wahabist Islam's, no doubt) for the Iraqi people. "Why can't we do something like that," Fetterman said bitterly.

# The Man Who Would Be King

When the Rakkasans turned over their areas in Baghdad to the 82nd and bumped north to Mosul, the nation building began in earnest. With his entire division finally under one roof, the 101st's CG, Major General David H. Petraeus, staked out his area with a will. Success upon success has been built in an area many pre-war pundits were the most concerned about. The area around the northern city of Mosul is host to a variety of competing ethnic groups and tribes. If things could have fractured, Mosul would have been the most likely place. That has not, howev-



101st medic tends to a minor injury of an Iraqi civilian.

er, come to pass.

Under the firm leadership of Gen Petraeus, who sports a Masters in International Relations from Princeton, the area has become a model for the rest of the country. Stepping into the role of governor and protector, Petraeus has used an approach that has actively involved Iraqis in their own affairs, but at the same time he retains a command authority over the region that ensures that when things get done, they get done according to plan. In the few months the 101st has been active in the region, an impressive record has evolved.

The first coup came when Mosul was the first city to have a more or less elected city council. Instead of trying to ram an alien electoral process down the throats of the unitiated, Gen. Petraeus took the Loya Jirga approach and assembled a myriad of Arab, Turkmen, Kurd and tribal leaders who already held people's respect in their districts. Under his guidance, in a few days they had elected a city council where all groups had a say in affairs and even hosted the novel presence of a respected local lawyer and a woman.

With that move, Petraeus had created a functioning "self-governing" situation on the ground before the CPA in Baghdad had figured out how to make their phones work. As Michael Gordon of the NYTs observed, "He approached so-called nation-building as a central military mission and who was prepared to act while the civilian authority in Baghdad was still getting organized." Having served as the assistant chief of staff for operations for SFOR, the international peacekeeping force in Bosnia, Petraeus has proven adept at this sort of get in and get it done mentality.

Under his leadership the region has seen the establishment of a regular police force, trained and supervised by troops from the 101st. They were in the field long before Baghdad had even

decided on what color uniform theirs would wear. When funds for vehicles and radios for them were held up in Baghdad, Petraeus told his commanders to draw from division funds.

He also created an employment agency for jobless, former Iraqi Army officers. This gesture of reconciliation immediately addressed the potential for a disgruntled officer corps stirring-up the kind of trouble that has been seen in central Iraq. There is no telling how much headaches this one simple move

has averted. Paid Iraqis are for the most part happy Iraqis and happy Iraqis don't cap-off RPG rockets at your patrols.

In addition, his response to unpaid government workers was swift. While money was available in the Mosul central bank, there was no authority in Baghdad to release it. A quick letter on division stationary and a trip to the unit's notary and everyone got paid. Beyond logical, his handling of that matter displayed no small amount of moral courage in the age of a highly

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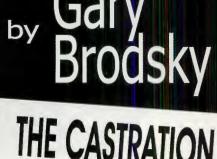
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bureaucratic, zero-screw-ups, CYA Army. It is probably safe to say that lesser commanders would have never taken such political and professional risks at that level.

On the infrastructure side of things, the record has been similarly good. Mosul enjoys a steady supply of electric power and water. Silos were located and refurbished for local farmers to store spring and summer crops. the University professors were also retained so that schools could finish the year and open for fall as scheduled. This ran counter to Bremmer's sacking of anyone with Ba'ath Party connections. But Gen. Petraeus, after seeing that party membership was required and not necessarily an indication of one's views, got Bremmer to grant an exception. Again, more happy Iraqis and most of it signed for by the general himself.

Hot on the heels of that came a donation of 900,000-ft. of fiber-optic cable from BellSouth at the request of the 101st. Delivered to Ft. Cambell, the materiel, along with technicians to install it, was on its way to Mosul. When the project is complete, Mosul will have a telephone exchange equal to, or better than, Kuwait City's. It is yet another example of the 101st Airborne seeing a problem and taking the initiative to resolve it.

That is not to say that there have not been flare-ups of violence. The division averages about five minor contacts a week but these have proven to be the exception to the rule and the one major battle the 101st has seen was the destruction the Hussein brothers. That they chose to hide in the area could have very well stemmed from Mosul's relative stability. In any event, millions of dollars and a cousin no doubt sick of their presence led to the coalition's biggest bag of the war.

A sign reportedly hangs in Petreaus' headquarters. "We are in a race to win over the people. What have you and your element done today to contribute to victory?" It is indicative of a commander and a command that understands the true nature of war and its long-term repercussions. So far, the only other units to match the successes of the 101st have been the Marines. It is apparent that if these initiatives continue at their present pace, their area will be light years ahead of the rest of the country.

J.S. Mosby is a freelance war correspondent who has been a witness and participant to conflict and rebuilding from the Balkans to Baghdad. 🕱

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## Chariots Of Firepower

#### Continued from page 26

ing from everywhere. Broadhead fired his 120mm main gun point-blank into a guardhouse from which he was receiving fire from AK-47s and RPGs, blowing parts of the building and parts of enemy soldiers onto my vehicle. I was yelling for my gunner to shoot and he replied "Where?" I said, "Everywhere, they're every-fucking-where - pick one and just start shooting!"

Just then one of the Iraqi soldiers in the back of a large truck fired an RPG at me. The back-blast from the rocket set a man on fire behind him. It was like time had stopped. I watched the RPG flying at me. I froze as it smashed into the antenna mount, right next to me. I could not believe my eyes as the RPG took my antenna off and kept going. A fireball flashed in front of me as my gunner opened up on the truck with the 25mm. Four HE rounds walked their way up the truck, breaking the truck in half, destroying the 15 soldiers in back who had been firing at my vehicle with AK-47s and at least one RPG launcher. My gunner, Sergeant Michael Soprano, had a target-rich environment. He quickly moved to another truck and opened fire again. I had stopped the Bradley on top of some bunkers and the Iraqis were firing up at us with small arms.

I pulled my 9mm pistol out and fired seven shots into two Iraqis who had come out of their bunkers right next to my vehicle. When I shot at them, they were less than 2 feet away from me. The first Iraqi fell after the third shot and I fired four more times at the second Iraqi before he fell. As I prepared to fire some more, my magazine failed to feed (the lowest bidder strikes again).

Sully was now firing the M240B off to the left side of the vehicle into a large group of Iraqi soldiers - most of the Iraqi soldiers were mere feet from our Bradley. Soprano fired the main gun into a small pick-up truck with about six guys in it, who were trying to get away. His first round hit a soldier in the chest and he disappeared. The next three rounds destroyed the truck and everyone in it. If I had not been there watching, I would not have believed the 25mm would have been able to do this much damage. From Marietta, Georgia, Soprano had been in the Army four years, and he was a natural with weapons: He could fire any weapon and hit whatever he shot at. He would be awarded the squadron's first Bronze Star with V-device (Valor) for his actions at Al Samawah.

#### **Fighting For Their Life**

Just after this, the truck went up in flames, and a dismount came out of a building, firing at me with his AK-47. Most of the rounds hit the turret and bounced off, but at least one of the rounds bounced into my vest, hitting me — not very hard but still going through the first layer of my vest. I picked up my gunner's M4 and engaged the shooting dismount. I then proceeded to pick out targets for my crew to engage. Soprano started to fire-up a group of about 50 soldiers. I had Sullivan fire the M240B into three Iragis who had come out from behind us with RPGs. He did this with the last burst of ammo he had, and they never



The troops encountered by Johnson's men were well-equipped and inclined to fight which did not work to their benefit.



Against vehicles, men in vehicles, or dismounts, the Bradley proved to be a devastating weapon. Not even armor could stand up against the 25mm main gun and the appropriate rounds.

got a change to shoot.

At the same time as I was fighting for my life, Broadhead was in a fight with a group of about 100 Iraqi soldiers with his M1. The Iraqis were less than 200 meters away from Broadhead and were engaging him with a variety of weapons (AK-47s, RPGs, etc.). He was laying-down a devastating amount of fire with coax .50 and main-gun rounds. "Dodging" became our word for the day. Broadhead and I were both out of our hatches so we could see better. The bad part of this was, that everyone was shooting at us and there were a lot of them to shoot. Soprano had taken-out most of the 50 Iraqi soldiers and Broadhead had destroyed his 100 dismounts and was now between me and the other Iraqi soldiers.

About 15 soldiers surrendered to Sully and I, and we dismounted our Bradley to take them prisoner. Once on the ground, I started taking fire from one of the buildings and I had my gunner open-up on it with the 25mm. He did this and the impact was deafening. Then two Iraqis jumped into a bunker and started firing at Sullivan and me. I took them out with my M4.

The shooting quieted down for now and I had my driver pull up and run over their flagpole. It pleased me greatly to take the flag, which now hangs in the 3rd ID Museum at Ft. Stewart. Sullivan now had 15 prisoners and we had them lying face down. I was looking for an Iraqi officer, found two of them and told my gunner to report it to the Lieutenant. I had Soprano pull security over them from the BC (Bradley Commander)-side of the vehicle. Sullivan and I were checking a building next to the road when one Iraqi stepped out at me with an AK: I put three rounds in him at point-blank range.

#### Get The Guy In Charge

Broadhead was now down the road fighting inside a compound next to the one I was in. As we were getting the prisoners ready to be moved, eight pick-up-trucks stopped on the road in front of us, fewer than 30 meters away and they didn't see us. At first I thought that the men in the trucks were there to help us (we had been told they loved Americans in Al Samawah and would be waving American flags ... ). I watched the men in black gym suits (we would find out later that they were Fedayeen) get out of their trucks with AKs and RPGs. They all ran to the first truck, a Toyota with a heavy machine gun in the back of it. There we were no shit — looking at maybe 60 guys, 30 meters away, and Sullivan and I were standing there with only two M4s and one M203 watching them to see whose side they were on. Confusion, needless to say, was the word of the hour now.

We had no commo, were low on ammo with 15 prisoners, and my wingman, Sgt. 1st Classt Broadhead, was more than 200 meters away and fighting for his life. One of the Iraqis looked like he was in charge. I told Soprano to get ready to fire and Sullivan and I took aim. He took the guy on the machine gun and I aimed at the guy I thought was in charge. I told my crew to fire when I did but to wait and see whose side they were on. When they took out an RPG launcher and aimed it at the bridge, I knew. I had my M4 on burst and fired three rounds, hit him in the chest, and he turned and fell to the ground. Specialist Sullivan took out the machine gunner and Soprano let about 35 rounds of 25mm HE fly into the men. It was the nastiest thing I had ever seen. The 25mm ripped and dismembered the men all to hell; not one of the 60 men got away from the trucks. They all died where they were standing. Two trucks in the back tried to get away, but they didn't make it. The Carnivore was out of HE, so Sullivan and I fired our M4s into them.



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#### Bad, But Not The Worst

Now things where getting bad: We were out of ammo now and would have to go back to the Bradley to reload. We had no HE loaded into the gun, and the turret machine gun was damaged, so we headed back to the Bradley. (The Bradley's main gun - the 25mm chain gun — fires two types of ammo and has a ready box for each. We have a selection board that allows us to chose which type of ammo we fire. Once the two ready-boxes are empty, we have to get more ammo from the back of the Bradley to reload.) Just then, Broadhead showed back up to help us out. He fired his .50 right over my head from about 70 feet away, and I turned and saw four Iraqi soldiers with an RPG launcher dead on the ground. They almost got me, but Broadhead got them first.

I saw a large blast in the middle of the prisoners. At first I did not know what had happened, then two more explosions — it was mortar fire: The Iraqi soldiers were firing mortars at me and it hit right in the middle of their own men (our POWs). There were only two Iraqis POWs left alive. I told them to run for cover. As for Sully and I, we got back on top of the Bradley. Before I could get it moving, another mortar round hit the top of a palm tree right over the top of us. Then silence.

I watched Broadhead move around me out into a field. I could see Soprano talking to him, but I couldn't hear what he was saying. It took about another minute for me to get my head back into the game. I saw Sully lying on the back hatch and I pushed him inside the track, as he was not moving and I did not know how bad he was wounded, and I had to get the Bradley moving. We moved out into the field and stopped close to Broadhead's M1. We were both glad to be alive. The firefights had lasted only about one hour, but what an hour.

The top of my Bradley was pitted from the mortar round and we had a lot of equipment destroyed. Broadhead fired his main gun into a mortar pit, killing its crew. However, more mortars rounds where falling on us, so we left and started moving back to the bridge to join the rest of our section. I followed the M1 to keep it from getting hit in the rear with an RPG. As we moved back up the road, there were so many mortar rounds falling it looked like it was raining dirt. They were hitting everywhere and I mean everywhere on top of houses, cars, the Iraqis and us. We had almost gotten back to the bridge, when a mortar hit next to our Bradley. My driver went left off the road and we had to stop before we turned over. Sperry got us back on the road and moving, but by then Broadhead's M1 was on the other side of the bridge.

Mortars were landing on the road to the bridge and there was no way in hell I could get back across to rejoin my unit. We were alone and under heavy fire. I watched more and more Iraqi soldiers come out of the compound — but we were alive and The Carnivore was still running good.

Now everyone on the crew was looking for me to get us out of this shit. I had to assess our situation. On the down side, we were cut off from our unit. Both of my M240Bs where damaged and would not fire. We were low on ammo. Two crewmembers were wounded. I had serious radio problems. It was bad, but not hopeless, as there was an upside: We were alive.

Then, just when I thought it couldn't get any worse, we started taking fire from heavy weapons, maybe a 12.7mm. It was kicking dirt up all around us. I was trying to see where it was coming from, but I couldn't. It had to be in the woods. Just then I saw puffs of smoke in the woods, and I knew that things were going to get worse: Mortars, a shit-load, came raining down on us, and if that were not enough, they were firing RPGs at us, too!

Next month, Johnson's crew fights its way out of this predicament, Staff Sergeant Forest Geary is stranded alone and under heavy fire in his Bradley, and the intrepid Carnivore and its mates from 3/7 Cav roll into "Ambush Alley" to collect Purple Hearts and kick ass in a continuance of the longest cavalry charge in history. Medical platoon leader Lt. Samuel Graham rescues his medics from a FUBAR track under heavy mortar fire, and the hunter-killer teams earn their name in a running gun-battle that went not just into the dry volumes of military history — but into the record books as well. Read it first in next month's SOF.

Staff Sergent (P) Dillard J. Johnson grew up in Island, a small town in McLean County, Kentucky. He lives in Daytona Beach, Florida, with his family and is stationed at Ft. Stewart, Georgia. Johnson has been in the Army since 1986, serving in the 11th ACR (Armored Calvary Regiment), 197th Infantry Brigade, 2nd ACR, 82nd Airborne Division, 2nd Infantry Division and 3rd Infantry Division.



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## A Pistol For A General

#### Continued from page 39

and accuracy, the pistol was shipped in the white to Accurate Plating, in Florida, to be finished in hard, polished "Durachrome." In addition to being extremely-corrosion resistant, this tough finish leaves a satin silvery exterior that has its own superb lubricity.

#### Light At The End Of The Tunnel, Or Cave

Having received General Franks' D&L Sports' Custom 1911 pistol from Dave Lauck while the General was still embroiled in taking Iraq, the only accessory that came with it was its Nytrolon Tactical Weapon Light donated by SureFire. Lightweight, waterresistant, and rugged, the SureFire Nytrolon puts out 60 lumens of blinding white light to not only illuminate an adversary, but also temporarily blind him, or her, making it impossible to return aimed fire, if any fire at all. As SureFire's trainers are fond of saying, "Win the light fight, win the gunfight."

#### **Shots Fired?**

No, sir! Although I was told to go ahead and shoot General Franks' D&L Custom 1911, I respectfully refrained from doing so. Sure, I know Dave Lauck test-fired it for reliability and accuracy plenty, but that's his job. Knowing what kind of quality Dave builds into his pistols, I didn't need to shoot this one after it had been cleaned to look as new. That privilege would be reserved for the General. However, I did examine it in great detail and dry fire it more than a few times. Both its action and trigger were smooth as silk. I also photographed the pistol on a target I thought the General might approve of.

#### **Other Accessories**

After I returned the General Franks 1911 to D&L Sports, additional accessories were donated as part of the package. These included a tactical holster, belt and magazine pouch from Spec.-Ops. Brand, of Monahans, Texas, and a state-of-the-art combat knife from Strider Knives, of San Marcos, California. The pistol, along with all accessories, was presented to General Franks shortly after his retirement following the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the spring of 2003. Not only was the General thrilled to received the presentation, but he also wants to come to Wyoming to take a couple of courses at D&L's tactical training facility, and



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By the way, General Franks' message to Dave Lauck was, "Thanks for the incredible .45. Absolutely beautiful workmanship — magnificent. It took my breath away. I could not be more pleased, and thanks for supporting our troops. God Bless you."

#### Back At'cha, Sir.

Whatever General Tommy Franks, USA (Ret.) decides to do, we wish him all the success, health, and happiness possible, as well as our most sincere thanks for a job well done. May God bless America and General Tommy Franks.

You can't own General Franks' pistol, but you can have one almost exactly like it. For information on this and all its fine custom firearms, contact D&L Sports, Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 651, Gillette WY 82716; tel.: (307) 686-4008; website: d&lsports.com.

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#### **Copper Chopper**

Continued from page 30

into the body of an adversary, but it would be useless for harvesting grain or cutting firewood.

Thus it appears that Ötzi's copper chopper was neither an agricultural instrument nor a hunting tool, but a weapon. His people did eat some cereal grain, which they ground on stone, but they did depend upon the meat of both wild game and semi-domesticated goats — and they were as warlike as necessary.

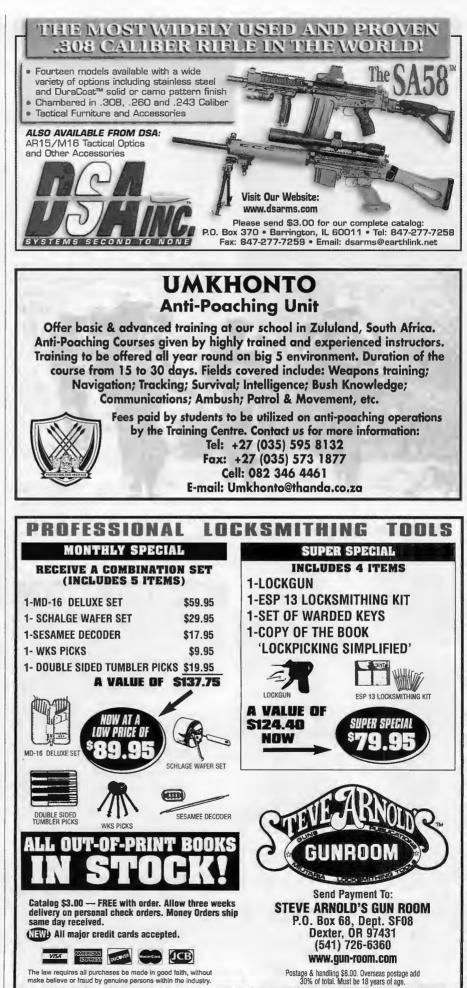
You can make excellent arrowheads out of flaked stone, and pretty good spearheads, but neither a fighting knife nor a sword. You cannot make a sword out of copper either, unless you refer to the copper chopper as a *Hackenschwert* ("hooked sword"). Copper will not take a very keen edge, nor will it hold the edge you can give it, but it will last through the duration of a fight and be tidied up afterwards. Stone is easier to work than copper, and much more readily available, thus Ötzi's tools were made of stone, but his weapon of copper.

Ötzi's discovery combines with other diggings to suggest that copper at the very beginning of the Age of Metals was rare and expensive-doubtless reserved for people of consequence. This was true of bronze as well, down through Homeric times. It was not until later that people learned how to work hematite and magnetite, which are relatively common near the earth's crust, into iron. Even then it took more than a millennium to understand the production of steel. According to Polybius and others, the Gauls (Celtics) fought with iron swords, which were no match for the "Spanish steel" of the Romans.

These matters are not fully understood, as far as I can discover. I have read into the subject at some length and discover much disagreement. Chroniclers are seldom warriors, and vice versa, and linguistic problems can be quite problematical.

So we now have a replica of the Iceman's axe in the armory. It is nothing like the *scramsax* of the early Germans, nor the tomahawk of the American Indian, which call for some sort of steel. Nonetheless it was an attractive piece of war gear for its time, and it establishes that our Neolithic ancestors were not mere grass-eaters.

Lt. Col. Jeff Cooper has written for SOF since its initial issue.  $\aleph$ 



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#### The Ghost ...

#### Continued from page 51

of helicopters, drones, HUMMVs, Barrett sniper rifles, electronics, and old-fashioned stealth. Modified to fit the current tactical situation, SF border camps should once again become the first line of defense against guerrilla infiltration.

There is also a place for a unit doing the mission of the Viet Nam War's SOG, the Special Operations Group. Operating in secrecy and using their own air assets, these small units of Special Forces and SEALs would conduct cross-border-reconnaissance, seeking out enemy camps and concentrations before they can harm us, calling in airstrikes or conducting direct — and deniable — action.

The use of Special Operations Forces in a guerrilla-warfare environment demonstrated success during the Viet Nam War, our last major involvement with guerrillas. Though the United States withdrew and our allies were predictably overrun, the counterguerrilla tactics employed by SF were very successful.

SF wrote the book, chapter and verse, through hard experience. That book needs to be reopened. For us old "Dogs of War," it ain't like it used to be, but it'll do. 🕱

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#### **Command Guidance**

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lessons without wanting to know how to take-off or land a plane. The Washington FBI headquarters refused permission to examine the hard drive of Moussaoui's computer. Had they done so, they would have found the blueprint of the 9/11 attacks. But Washington did not want to be guilty of profiling.

With the information that Aldrich provides in this and other cases, one could safely conclude that political correctness is a killer.

Had this been part of the debate around the passage of the Patriot Act, it is possible that there would have been more reluctance for Congress to hand over such unconstitutional powers to the President.

Gun control is something that Aldrich clearly supports; that is, controlling the gun with both hands. He thinks it is wrong for police officers to have more firearms freedoms than the rest of us: "But, if an off-duty federal agent and your average police officer can enjoy that level of protection [carrying a concealed firearm], why is it that the average law-abiding citizen cannot?"

The colonial patriot, legislator and governor of Virginia, Patrick Henry, is one of Aldrich's heroes. He reminds us that Patrick Henry was, among other things, a militia leader. His famous St. Johns Church speech calling for "give me liberty or give me death" was made to get his fellow legislators to fund the militia in order to fight a tyrannical government.

Henry was reacting to the outrages committed by the English government of King George III. The Declaration of Independence listed the acts of terrorism sponsored by the Crown against Americans. These acts had been directed against children, women, the sick and the elderly — the same as today.

Defense against a terroristic tyrant was the fundamental reason for enshrining the right to keep and bear arms in our Bill of Rights, Aldrich points out. No wonder Patrick Henry is usually excluded from the politically correct history books in use by the government schools.

Gary Aldrich should be made head of the FBI.

Gary Aldrich was interviewed on Larry Pratt's Live Fire talk show and can be heard at http://www.gunowners-.org/radio.htm. 🕱





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<u>Sound off</u>

by Col. David H. Hackworth, USA (Ret.)

Medalgate

ecently in Iraq, an Army two-star general put himself in for the Silver Star, a gallantry award, for just being there, and for the Combat Infantryman Badge, an award designed for infantry grunts far below the rank of this division commander.

During the war, members of an Air Force bomber crew were all awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for lobbing a smart bomb from 30,000 feet onto a house where Saddam was rumored to be breaking bread — even though Saddam's still out there somewhere sucking desert air.

In 1944, the only way a bomber crew might have gotten the DFC would have been if it had wobbled back from Berlin on one wing and a prayer after a dozen-plus missions of wall-to-wall flak.

Here's another "Believe It or Not": When the Scuds were thumping down on Kuwait, a Navy two-star admiral and six of his flunkies were awarded the Bronze Star — after a missile struck 10 miles away.

Not that these abuses of the awards system are anything new. The U.S. military's awards program — designed to recognize both our combat heroes' valor and the meritorious deeds by those hard-working supporters who bring up the rear — has never been exactly fair.

In the past, Joe and Jill have often gone unrecognized because there was no one left at the end of the battle to bear witness, or the paperwork got lost or wasn't written persuasively enough, or some eager-beaver officer in the chain of command stole their glory.

I know of two Medals of Honor — one in Korea and the other with a Navy unit in Vietnam — that shamefully went to still-living former officers when in fact their above-andbeyond deeds "witnessed" by sycophants were actually performed by grunts.

In the latter days of the Korean War, and in Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Desert Storm and Somalia, such abuses of military honors increased with each battle. In Vietnam, a dog was awarded the Bronze Star, and, in Grenada, more medals were awarded than there were soldiers on that tiny island. In Desert Storm, Army infantry battalions that never saw a shot fired were awarded the coveted CIB.

Now, warriors in Iraq are reporting that COs there are using a quota system for awards.

Sergeant Bill Casey, whose unit saw heavy combat in Iraq,

says: "Our awards were not given out on heroism. They were based entirely upon rank and duty position. If you were a company commander, you got a Silver Star. If you were a platoon leader or platoon sergeant, you got a Bronze Star. If you did a good job at a level below that, you might get a Bronze Star. If you were a PFC (private first class), you probably didn't get a medal for valor. Every award was entirely based upon rank and duty position — rather than whether that person stood tall and continued to return fire or whether that person continued to bring the fight to the enemy or flat-out ran away when the bullets started flying."

These stats tell the story:

• The U.S. Air Force has approved more than 50,000 e Middle Fast

medals for operations in the Middle East.

• The U.S. Army, trying to catch up with the folks in blue who flew through all that imaginary Iraqi flak, has issued medals as though they were Cracker Jack prizes. So far they've pinned on tens of thousands of awards, from the coveted Distinguished Service Cross to the CIB. More than 5,000 Bronze Stars alone have been awarded.

One-half the members of a 700-strong aviation squadron at Fort Stewart, Ga., were recently presented Bronze Stars and Commendation medals.

But as of 22 Sept 2003, the U.S. Marine Corps has approved only 56 Meritorious Bronze Stars — 46 to officers, 10 to enlisted — and 15 Bronze Stars for valor — 11 to officers and four to enlisted — for their 70,000 fighters who kicked more than a little butt during the war in Iraq.

Kudos to our gallant Marine Corps for not following the quota system and to its top brass for refusing to play the Pentagon's public-relations medal-giveaway game.

But any way you count 'em, deserving grunts aren't being appropriately recognized by a sick out-of-control system that desperately needs overhauling.

www.hackworth.com is the address of David Hackworth's homepage. Sign in for the free weekly Defending America column at his Web site. Send mail to P.O. Box 11179, Greenwich, CT 06831. His newest book is Steel My Soldiers' Hearts. © 2003 David H. Hackworth 🕱

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